



A BUST-UP IN MILAN

Sex war rages in Italian fashion

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BLOOD ON THE TABLE

Shock horrors of the burger

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SWAYED BY SUEDE

A cool look at the top band

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New rates cut unlikely after pound plunges

Worries about Tory drift hit sterling

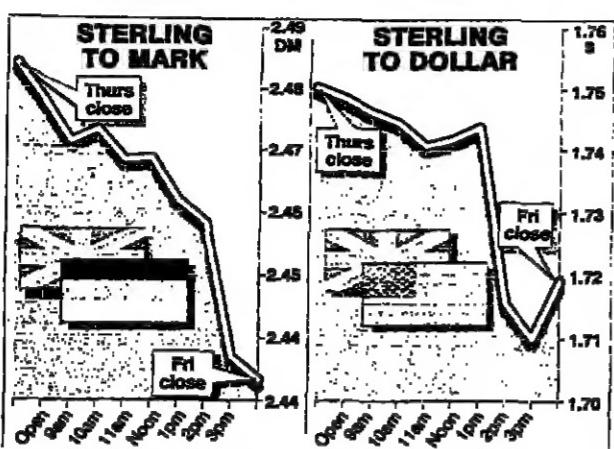
By ANATOLE KALETSKY
AND PHILIP WEBSTER

HOPES of another cut in interest rates ahead of next week's Conservative conference receded yesterday as sterling suffered its biggest fall in foreign exchanges since the immediate aftermath of devaluation on September 16.

The main reason appeared to be anxiety among investors about the lack of a clear economic and foreign policy from John Major and the government.

Concern that the Tory party might split over re-entry to the European exchange-rate mechanism and ratification of the Maastricht treaty increased uncertainty about the government's new economic policy. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, may not begin to unveil the policy until he appears before the Commons Treasury committee the week after next.

In a vicious circle which one big international investor described as potentially disastrous, the fall in the pound triggered further fears about the government's ability to revive the economy and rebuild its popular appeal.



The pound fell against the mark to a record low of DM2.4335, four pence down on the day. It fell a cent against the generally weak dollar to \$1.7270, underlining that the market pressure came from sellers of sterling as well as international buying of marks.

Government officials showed no sign of alarm about the falling pound and there was no indication from the Treasury or Bank of England of a change in Mr Lamont's frequently repeated view that monetary policy would be

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Major's Maastricht ultimatum forces the sceptics to waver

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

CONSERVATIVE MPs opposed to ratification of the Maastricht treaty were wavering last night in the face of John Major's gamble that they would put party loyalty before their Euro-sceptic beliefs.

Although the hard core of 22 Tories who voted against the government in the second reading debate in May seem certain to defy the whips again in the paving debate pencilled in within a matter of weeks, other MPs who have publicly opposed the treaty appear to be shuffling back into line. They know that if the prime minister is humiliated in the Commons, his government would fall and they would face a general election in unenviable circumstances.

One former minister who has argued openly against the

treaty said that much would depend on the "piece of paper" that the prime minister secured from the Birmingham EC summit. "I do not want to bring down the government," he said. "It may be the prime minister's right by his own rules and if Birmingham goes well, the bill will squeeze through."

James Pawsey, a member of the 1922 executive, who backed the government at second reading but signed the rebel Commons motion calling for a "fresh start" over Maastricht, said yesterday that he had not yet decided whether to join a revolt. Another senior signatory said that he would either support the government or abstain.

Friends of Mr Howard, the environment secretary, said he felt the treaty contained "significant concessions" to Britain through the opt-outs over the social chapter and monetary union. Mr Lilley argued in cabinet that it was important for the government to contrast its free-market approach to Europe with the federalist and socialist alternative of Labour.

A number of Thatcherite junior ministers, including Edward Leigh, Michael Forsyth and Neil Hamilton, are known to be hostile to the treaty. However, without a lead from the top, they are thought unlikely to cut short their ministerial careers.

One whip said: "I would not expect people to throw themselves on their swords. They can do their sums. The reality is that Labour are not going to oppose us, so why die for nothing?"

Nevertheless, Mr Major will face intense opposition when he confronts the Commons. Mr Pawsey said that the ERM meltdown and sterling's forced exit had undermined confidence in a treaty that sought to set such arrangements in concrete. "As it stands, it will take a great deal to persuade me to vote in favour. At the moment, I am disenchanted." He predicted that the eventual rebellion would be "a bloody sight more than 22". The anti-Maastricht

their tongues and Mr Hurd tried the uncharismatic phrase again in a speech this week, but it will sink without trace. Advisers of a military cast of mind unsuccessfully suggested "no go areas" for EC intervention.

After Mr Hurd's warning that the Commission should not poke into the "nooks and crannies" of national life, some murmured that the government could back an "anti-cranny" policy. Wise heads realised in time that a single misprinted letter would result in an anti-granny policy.

Meanwhile, thanks to the Danish referendum and a narrow squeak in the French vote, the European Commission has felt the effects of people power. The EC's bureaucracy has been forced to see itself as others see it.

They are used to polls of the kind recently conducted in Britain, which discovered that half the respondents did not know who or what Jacques Delors is. But recent polls have shown that four out of ten Dutch don't seem to know anything about Maastricht. French reporters asked the burghers of the southern Dutch town, where the document was signed, their opinion of the referendum. They were shocked to find that the Maastrichters could not care less.

"IT'S time to release Lightbown," the senior minister said after the cabinet's decision to raise the battle standard and press ahead with the bill despite the Maastricht treaty. He was referring to David Lightbown, Comptroller of Her Majesty's Household, otherwise known as the enforcer of the Tory whips office.

A large, bulky man, he is regarded as the banting ram of the office, short on intellectual persuasion but long on brute political force. Weaker-willed Tory MPs have complained about being bullied, but Mr Lightbown is now a vital part of the prime minister's political armoury.

John Major has staked his political future on securing the Maastricht bill. That has always been his instinct, since he is proud of the concessions he won and has said that he could not go back on his promise to ratify the treaty.

In his Commons speech he was vague about the timing, and appeared indecisive. Mr Major discussed with senior advisers how, and when, he should declare his hand. Mr Major knew that talk of a leadership vacuum was debilitating and he had to make up his mind how far he was prepared to go. One option was to endure all the attacks, "not firing his bullets until there is a target to fire at".

But as the whips are pointing out, the arithmetic is on Mr Major's side. As long as Labour does not vote against the government, a combination of Tory and Labour rebels would not be enough to wreck the legislation, only to delay its passage. But all these calculations would be overturned if John Smith sprung an ambush, perhaps at third reading, or backed a referendum.



Fresh face of fun: Peter Brooke comes under close scrutiny as he performs his first official task as national heritage secretary yesterday. "I'm enjoying this, it's terrific," he said as he opened an exhibition by the Polish sculptor Igor Mitoraj at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park near Wakefield.

Mr Brooke's only concern appeared to be the whereabouts of his gumboots as he toured the park in the rain with Mr Mitoraj. He was eventually forced to continue his tour from the comfort of a Range-Rover.

The function was due to have been carried out by David Mellor, Mr Brooke's predecessor as "minister of fun". Mr Brooke, a former Northern Ireland secretary who lost that post

after singing on television within hours of a terrorist atrocity, stepped into Mr Mellor's shoes with obvious enthusiasm, accompanied by a discreet but noticeable security presence.

After lunching with the directors of the sculpture park, set in the grounds of the eighteenth century Bretton Hall, close to the birthplace of Henry Moore, he made a brief speech explaining the qualifications that enabled him to appreciate the classical influences on view. A levels in Latin and Greek, followed by two terms at Balliol College, Oxford, studying ancient history and classical literature.

"I have been inevitably dropped in at the deep end, but there's a lot to do and we have to get on with it," he said of his

new job. "There's no danger of me being unemployed." The national lottery, the BBC charter, self-regulation of the press and the Manchester Olympic bid would keep him busy, he added.

He paid tribute to the work done by Mr Mellor, who set up the ministry after the April general election. "I am extremely proud of what David Mellor achieved in terms of establishing the department and the personal qualities he brought to the task," he said. "In that respect I am his heir and successor."

After touring the sculpture park, Mr Brooke left for the West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds. He then went to Leeds Grand Theatre for the opening night of Opera North's *The Duenna*.

Shambles to the EC summit via Coventry

Baffled British ministers will need to find a more acceptable alternative to the S-word, George Brock writes

AFTER several weeks of bad-tempered shambles at the heart of Europe, John Major faces the unwelcome prospect that when he chairs the EC's Birmingham summit later this month, his colleagues may send him to Coventry.

He can divert attention from his own difficulties only if everyone agrees to talk "subsidiarity". The principle that Brussels should act only when necessary desperately needs a new name. Headline writers and politicians loathe the word for its length and obscurity. Ministers rapidly descend into gibberish when they try to define it.

But the dread term will be everywhere before long, for subsidiarity is supposed to be a miracle cure for the EC's ills. The term comes from Roman Catholic doctrine, and people like Jacques Delors, the European Commission president, who has been battling on about it since 1987, resent British ministers behaving as if they invented the idea.

Two years ago, Britain's senior commissioner in Brussels, Sir Leon Brittan, asked his staff to find a new name for subsidiarity. They failed. The prime minister and Douglas Hurd spent a plane trip together jotting possible substitutes on the back of an envelope. They rolled "minimum interference" around



Pawsey: undecided on joining Tory revolt

diedhards, led by Sir Teddy Taylor and Michael Spicer, will seek to maximise their forces in the vote on the paving debate then dig in for weeks of trench warfare as the government battles to get its way in the line by line scrutiny of the committee stage.

Sir Teddy said yesterday that it was "tragic" that Mr Major was pressing on and predicted that MPs would have to be "dragged" through the voting lobbies to get the bill through.

But as the whips are pointing out, the arithmetic is on Mr Major's side. As long as Labour does not vote against the government, a combination of Tory and Labour rebels would not be enough to wreck the legislation, only to delay its passage. But all these calculations would be overturned if John Smith sprung an ambush, perhaps at third reading, or backed a referendum.

Prime minister stakes political future on ratifying treaty

Time to let the whips off the leash as ministers hoist battle standard

By PETER RIDDELL, POLITICAL EDITOR

"IT'S time to release Lightbown," the senior minister said after the cabinet's decision to raise the battle standard and press ahead with the bill despite the Maastricht treaty. He was referring to David Lightbown, Comptroller of Her Majesty's Household, otherwise known as the enforcer of the Tory whips office.

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The talks which Mr Major and Douglas Hurd held on Wednesday with the French,

agreed to long-term review by experts. The pro-European majority of the cabinet pressed Mr Major to take a lead ahead of the Tory party conference in Brighton next week. Unlike Baroness Thatcher, Mr Major has allowed lengthy discussions at recent Cabinet meetings. Mr Major presented the cabinet with a package intended to keep both sides on board — ratifying the Maastricht treaty, while sterling will not re-enter the ERM for at least 18 months to two years.

The three or four opponents of proceeding with Maastricht are willing to go along because of the indication that sterling will stay outside the ERM, while the pro-Europeans recognise that re-entry is not feasible for a long time. So resignations are likely at cabinet level, though a few junior ministers in economic departments may quit, mainly those who have never been recon-

Teddy Taylor, Nicholas Budgen, William Cash and Michael Spicer, and they will not bother to try. Their efforts will concentrate on recently elected younger MPs ambitious for preferment. The government hopes for a majority on the basis of Tory votes alone, but it should be able to

count on most of the 20-strong Liberal Democrats and on a handful of Labour MPs. The Labour leadership supports Maastricht in principle, though it is using the opt-outs from the social chapter and from economic and monetary union to justify abstention.

Moreover, the opportunity to embarrass a weakened government means that, in practice, Labour is likely to oppose attempts to accelerate progress on the bill, via closure motions and any guillotine. But a sizeable minority of Labour MPs, possibly 60 to 80, are likely to vote against the bill.

So there are likely to be several close votes, late nights and weekend sittings, but in the end the odds are still that the Commons will approve the bill. Mr Major has taken the only course he could by siding with the pro-European majority in his cabinet. But that promises many battles ahead and still leaves the difficulty of formulating a credible economic strategy outside the ERM. He is far from safe.

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MPs try referendum shuffle

HOPES of both ministers and Labour party leaders that MPs will be denied a debate on a referendum over the Maastricht treaty are likely to be dashed. Opponents of closer European unity believe they can bypass procedural rules which appear to prevent amendment of the European Communities (Amendment) Bill to provide for a plebiscite.

Both the government and the shadow cabinet have come out strongly against the idea. Yet rebels on both sides of the Commons still believe that the referendum proposal is the one around which they can build the most support.

Because they face their greatest internal revolts on the issue, Tory and Labour leaders are hoping that Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker, rules referendum amendment out of order on the advice of her clerks.

Commons officials confirmed yesterday that a refer-

endum proposal would, as the bill stands, be out of order. Anything proposed in the bill that would require the outlay of public expenditure — as a referendum would — has to be covered by a "money clause".

Only the government can put down money resolutions something it would not do to facilitate a rebel amendment. However, ingenious sceptics believe they have found ways round the restriction. Richard Shepherd and William Cash have tabled a proposal new clause suggesting that after the passing of the act the government

should bring forward an Order in Council "making such provision as her Majesty thinks appropriate" for ascertaining national opinion over the treaty ratification.

They believe this to be in order because it would not be the act but a later Order in Council that would incur the expenditure, money that the government would find hard to refuse.

The other amendment appears to be in order, according to Commons sources, even though its effect would be to result in a referendum. It is from Sir Teddy Taylor saying that the act should not come into effect until steps had been taken "to establish that the measure has the full-hearted consent of the British people".

Sir Teddy said last night:

"Although this does not refer to a referendum, it would be unthinkable that the government would not grant one if it went through."

The balance of the low deposit is due 12.12.92, or 10 weeks before departure, or upon cancellation, whichever is sooner.

Lunn Poly

The same holiday for less.

Bottomley commits £500m to home care

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

MORE old people are to be cared for in their own flats and houses under government plans to cut the growing cost of keeping them in residential homes, it was announced yesterday.

More than £500 million is to be transferred from the social security department to local authorities next year to pay for care of the elderly. This amount will treble by 1995.

The local authorities will assume responsibility for care of the elderly under new community arrangements which will be introduced next April. State help is currently available only to people in residential homes.

Announcing the figures to the social services directors' conference in the Isle of Wight, Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, said individuals must continue to have a choice in the kind of care they were offered and where it was provided.

"The policy will fail if people think that care packages are just being handed down to them by experts," she said. "In Clacton you will find a lady who moved from Bermondsey to be near her sister. The mechanisms must be in place to enable her to do that."

David Blunkett, the shadow health secretary, said the figure announced by Mrs Bottomley represented a funding shortfall of £300 million. "Tens of thousands of elderly and frail people are going to be left in an impossible position because of this squeeze on cash," he said. "Today's announcement is the first sign of public spending cuts that the government will announce later this year."

Social services leaders welcomed the announcement of the figure, acknowledging that it had been achieved in a difficult economic climate. But the Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities said it fell £200 million short of what was necessary. Toby Harris, chairman of the association, said: "Perhaps 12,000 vulnerable people will not be receiving services they need next year."

Mrs Bottomley said that 110,000 old people were expected to need care in the first year of the scheme. They would have cost £399 million in social security payments to private old people's homes and this sum, plus a further £140 million chiefly for administrative costs, would be transferred to local authorities to spend on residential and domiciliary care.

To prevent widespread closures of private old people's homes if local authorities were to switch clients to their own homes, 75 per cent of the first year's total of £539 million must be spent in the private sector, she said. Private domiciliary services which could provide care cheaply in people's own homes are expected to benefit.

The number of old people going into residential care has been rising by up to 25,000 a year and the cost in social security payments has risen from £10 million in 1979 to £2.5 billion last year.

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Rapist who was released by police struck again

By RAY CLANCY

A JUDGE yesterday ordered an enquiry into why police released a rapist who then went on to sexually assault another woman.

Glory Kwantreng, 32, a kitchen porter, was jailed for a total of 14 years by the Central Criminal Court yesterday for raping a French student in Highgate cemetery, north London, and for assaulting a designer in her home five months later.

He had been out of prison for only two months after serving a six-month term for indecently assaulting a girl aged ten when he attacked and raped a 19-year-old French student by the tomb of Karl Marx in Highgate cemetery.

Police arrested Kwantreng of Kentish Town, north London, five days later but he was released when his employer confirmed he was working on the day of the rape. Five months later Kwantreng indecently assaulted a woman designer as she lay in bed. He broke into her flat in Belize Park, north London, at 2am. She woke to find him standing at the end of her bed. As he attacked her she managed to push him away and he fled.

Kwantreng was questioned again after he was seen trying to get into a nurse's home by climbing a drainpipe. Kwantreng was described in court as an extremely agile man who could climb up and down walls and drainpipes like a human spider. His fingerprints were found on the window sills of the home.

Police later discovered that he had been on a break from work when the student was attacked. Detectives further

matched Kwantreng to the cemetery rape by taking a dental impression of his teeth and comparing it with a bite on the arm of the raped teenager.

Sentencing Kwantreng Judge Coombe said he was an evil man who was a danger to the public. "You are a very dangerous man as far as women are concerned. These offences are part of a history of violence and an utter disregard for other human beings."

The judge also criticised the police for the way they handled the investigation and described the initial release of Kwantreng as "a very unfortunate error of judgment". He called for an investigation into how Kwantreng was released.

The matter has been referred to the commissioner of the Metropolitan Police.

The court was told by the judge that the women attacked by Kwantreng had suffered dreadfully. The French student had worried for six months that she might have contracted a sexual disease from the rape. "She has lost her self-confidence and she finds it difficult to talk about the matter because rape in France is a very taboo subject. She has lost weight and finds her own personal changes confusing. This girl is almost at the beginning of her life and it has been ruined by the man in the dock as a result of the rape he subjected her to," the judge said.

She had been visiting the tomb of Karl Marx in May last year when she was dragged into bushes, stripped, brutally beaten and bitten on the arm. She tried to fight him off but her judo training was not enough.

Civil servant jailed for passport conspiracy

By A STAFF REPORTER

A CIVIL servant who claimed he was frightened into supplying British passports to Chinese businessmen allegedly linked to Triad gangsters was yesterday jailed for three years.

But in exchange for handing over more than 100 full British passports to people not entitled to them, David Lynch was paid £7,000 to £10,000 and given cars, televisions, video recorders and a rent-free luxury flat. Southwark Crown Court was told.

Lynch, 23, a passport examiner in London's Petty France office, told police he was "jumped" by three Chinese men, there was a fight and one held a gun to his head, Brendan Flanagan, for the prosecution, said. "They said if he did not get a passport something would happen to Lynch, his parents or girlfriend," Mr Flanagan added.

Det Con Colin Smith told the court that, while it could

not be proved, "we would say there was Triad influence" in the case. Judge Gerald Butler QC accepted Lynch did not initiate the conspiracy and was subjected to "threats of violence".

Lynch, of Lambeth, south London, who pleaded guilty to conspiracy to obtain passports by deception, forged the names of other passport examiners to issue travel documents to those the court was told.

Mr Flanagan said 85 per cent of those receiving the passports were Hong Kong citizens of Chinese origin. The passports were in great demand and of "immense value" so people could leave the colony before it was returned to China in 1997, he said.

An imitation pistol, blank ammunition and completed passport application forms were found at Lynch's home. Stephen Man, 35, of Bingley Drive, Sunbury, Surrey, and his brother Patrick, 43, of Conway Road, Hanworth, west London, admitted a single charge of obtaining one passport by deception. Both were originally from Hong Kong and run a restaurant in London's Chinatown.

They were jailed for six months and ordered to pay £500 prosecution costs. The court was told they paid Lynch £500 for their "British" passports.

Outside the court, Mr Smith said that a British passport could fetch up to \$40,000 in Hong Kong, where a strong black market operated on the streets.

Cyprus air talks fail

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH holidaymakers in Cyprus may be forced to use scheduled airlines and pay high prices for their flights to the island next summer after the collapse of talks on a new air services agreement.

After the Cypriot authorities clamped down on the number of "seat only" charter flights they would allow in this summer, the transport department asked for urgent talks to try to set up a fully liberal agreement which would have at least allowed Air 2000 to operate scheduled services rather than charter flights from Gatwick to get round the ban.

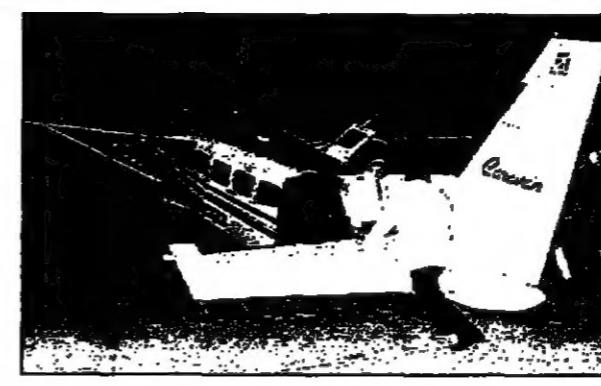
At the moment, Cyprus will not allow charter flights from any London airport in an attempt to protect Cyprus Airways, and restricts the number



where they were hiding and taken to Split. Elizabeth Cooper, co-ordinator of the Sarajevo Child Lifeline, which organised the rescue, said: "Children were hiding behind hedges and in the mountains. They are frightened out of their wits."

The children landed minutes after another flight brought 21 wounded Bosnian soldiers from Rijeka. The men, aged between 20 and 29, were taken to hospitals in Kent and Sussex.

□ The Roman Catholic Church yesterday issued a document criticising countries trying to stem the influx of refugees. The Vatican said that indifference to refugees was a sin of omission.



Teacher in GCSE row seeks job

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A HISTORY teacher whose defence of traditionalist teaching was singled out for praise by the prime minister yesterday had spent the previous day before an internal council tribunal, fighting to save his job as a supply teacher.

In a letter published yesterday, John Major said that Dr Anthony Freeman and Chris McGovern, who both lost their jobs at Lewes Priory School, East Sussex, after criticising the GCSE syllabus in 1987, had "simply documented challenges to the traditional core of this crucial subject".

Since he left Lewes Priory, Dr Freeman, who is a member of the School Examinations and Assessment Council's history committee, has been unable to find a job in East Sussex and has been employed only rarely as a supply teacher. East Sussex county council denies that he was being victimised.

"We are not hounding him out. We have done all we can to support him. We have actually put him forward for three interviews with schools and one with a college. On each occasion he has been unsuccessful," a spokeswoman said.

Dr Freeman has welcomed the prime minister's support. "It is sad that it has required action from so high a quarter to raise the question of a review," he said. However, his own future on the council's supply list was still being debated last night.

Mr McGovern, who now teaches at private preparatory school, said county education officials had not helped Dr Freeman. "They are being incredibly hypocritical," he said. "It is deplorable and disgraceful."

"Dr Freeman was widely regarded as one of the best history teachers in the country. He is highly qualified and has a formidable record."

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Air crash black box recovered

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS
IN KATHMANDU

RESCUE workers recovered the "black box" flight recorder yesterday from the wreckage of the Pakistan International Airlines plane that crashed in Nepal on Monday.

It is being sent to France to be deciphered. The top of the recorder was discovered earlier this week and there were fears that the machine might have been destroyed. It was buried nearly 18 inches deep.

Nepal said yesterday it planned to set up a commission of enquiry into the accident, which killed all 167 people aboard, including 34 Britons.

Arrangements are being made for relatives of the dead Britons to visit the crash site today. Detailed interviews with the relatives will also get under way to gather information that would help identification. Only 20 bodies have been identified so far, none of them British.

Relatives of all 167 passengers met the airline's officials at a hotel on Thursday night. The airline extended help offered to them following complaints that it was not doing enough.

British relatives will be driven into the mountains by diplomats for a picnic today. A service will be held at the embassy tomorrow and a memorial service will be conducted in Kathmandu by resident British clergymen.

The Britons are planning to charter a small aircraft to drop wreaths over the crash scene in the mountains.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Norman's conquest

In order for this to succeed it is going to take killer instinct on the part of all our leaders out there... We need commanders in the lead who absolutely, clearly



understand that they will get through. I cannot afford to have commanders who do not understand that it is attack, attack, attack, attack and destroy every step of the way. We cannot fail, and we will not fail. Anybody in here who doesn't understand that, get out of the way...

First exclusive extract from *It Doesn't Take a Hero*, by General H. Norman Schwarzkopf - in an attempt to protect Cyprus Airways, and restricts the number

tomorrow

Member of LAUTRO

Used against a child, it can cause serious internal injuries.

THERE'S A dangerous myth that so long as you don't knock your children about you're doing alright as a parent.

If a child has been physically abused you can see the bruises.

But verbal abuse can be just as damaging. You don't see the scars, but they are there and some of them never heal. Instead of broken limbs you get broken hearts.

Verbal abuse isn't only a matter of shouting at a child, either.

Parents being quietly sarcastic or repeatedly critical can eat away at a child's confidence. And again, if a child is ignored apart from perhaps the occasional grunt, it can have equally harmful consequences.

But why do parents attack their children like this?

More often than not it's a result of stress. It may be the children themselves creating the stress by being naughty, or noisy, or by being just too demanding.

It may be caused by a particular environment. A supermarket for example. Or overcrowded housing. Or it may be caused by mounting debts, or fears about job security. Or by a day packed with irritating happenings, or by a disintegrating relationship between the parents.

But whatever causes the stress, the consequences are often the same. A child gets disciplined too harshly. Or criticised unnecessarily. Or worse still, he gets the blame for something he didn't even do.



Eventually the child will be convinced that whatever he does will be wrong because he can never do anything right. But then when he tries to avoid doing anything he's got at for doing nothing.

The NSPCC doesn't pretend that being a parent is easy.

And we're not saying that you shouldn't discipline your child, because children need to know right from wrong. But it's important to be consistent in what you say is right and what is wrong.

And when you discipline your child, it's important too to criticise her action rather than criticising her as a person.

In other words, saying "that was a horrible thing to do" instead of "what a horrible girl you are".

Try reasoning. Try understanding the situation from the child's point of view.

And remember how important your own parents' words were to

you. How cutting you found it if they ever criticised you unfairly.

But most important, try not to give in to stress and let it make you a less caring parent. Because unfortunately, an unkind response can become the norm. Worse still, it can deteriorate into ever more damaging abuse.

The NSPCC has produced a booklet which explains the causes of stress and offers some practical suggestions for coping with it.

But if you're at the end of your tether now, please call the NSPCC Helpline on 0800 800 500.

Our suggestions may help you realise the pleasures of being a parent, which in turn could help your son or daughter realise the joys of being a child.

For a copy of our booklet, call 071-242 1626.

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Partners help men find love of God

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

BIG evangelistic rallies are not as effective as wives and girl friends at converting men to Christianity, according to a report published yesterday.

Most adults find God through the help of a friend, relative or minister, according to the report. Only 4 per cent are converted at rallies, it says. The most effective means of evangelism is one partner to another, particularly women to men.

The report will surprise many church leaders who believe the best way to convert people is at large charismatic events with lavish use of high-tech sound and video systems. The findings refute established evangelism, and will lead many church leaders to reassess their strategies.

The decade of evangelism, in its second year, has so far failed to catch the public imagination outside church circles, although the recent launch of Springboard, the evangelism initiative of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, could prove more successful.

More than two-thirds of Christians find faith gradually rather than through a sudden conversion, according to the report. Evangelical and charismatic churches emerge as the most successful at conversions.

Canon John Finney, author of *Finding Faith Today* and the Church of England officer for the decade of evangelism, said: "Without exception, all those surveyed felt more integrated as human beings because they had become Christians."

Finding Faith Today (Bible Society, Stonehill Green, Westlea, Swindon, SN5 7DG; £6.95)

CORRECTION

In the Life & Times article "What shall we tell the president?" (August 18), we inadvertently published a photograph of Grigori Baklanov, the distinguished Russian author and editor of the literary magazine, *Znamya*. We should have published a photograph of Oleg Baklanov, the former deputy chief of the Defence Council, who was involved in the attempted coup against President Gorbachev. We apologise for the error.

The photograph that appears on page 2 of Weekend Times is that of Nick Owen, former presenter of Good Morning Britain, and not of Nicholas Owen the ITN newscaster, whose words appear below the illustration. We apologise for the error.

MMI policyholders are safe, says AA

Drivers and homeowners insured with Municipal Mutual Insurance were reassured last night that they were still covered. The Automobile Association, which has placed 20,000 motorists and 230,000 householders with the company, told them not to worry and said last night that if it should become necessary the AA would transfer policies to another company, at no extra cost to policyholders.

Meanwhile since Wednesday's announcement that MMI, which insures nine out of ten of Britain's councils, was unable to provide cover, several local authorities were still without insurance. Exeter City Council, which closed leisure facilities and took all its vehicles off the road, has arranged a new insurance deal, which will cost an extra £146.00 a year, an increase of 52 per cent. Rutland council, Leicestershire, has closed services while it tries to find alternative cover. One company offering cover said it had been inundated.

Search for cover, page 18

Irish judge killed

A Dublin supreme court judge and his wife have been killed in a car accident at Lebrija near Seville in southern Spain where he had been attending a legal conference. Judge Niall McCarthy, 67, and his wife Barbara, 65, died after their hire car was in collision with a lorry on Thursday. The 27-year-old Spanish lorry driver was seriously injured. The judge is believed to have been planning to attend Irish national day celebrations at Expo '92 in Seville tomorrow.

Maxwell trust payout

The first payments to Maxwell pension fraud victims were made by the Maxwell Pensioners Trust yesterday. Forty people have been sent a total of £16,000 in backdated payments. The trust, set up by Peter Lilley, the social security secretary, in June, said that further payments were being processed. Almost £5.75 million in donations from companies and from individuals has been received since fund-raising began on July 17.

Oil workers protected

Safety representatives will be protected from victimisation by legislation about to go through Parliament, Michael Forsyth, the employment minister, said yesterday. Mr Forsyth, visiting a Shell/Essco gas terminal at St Fergus, Grampian, said that an unacceptable number of safety representatives were being victimised by employers for carrying out their duties. Dismissed workers will be able to complain to industrial tribunals regardless of length of service.

Zoo opponents banned

Eight anti-piñecisionists were banned from every zoo in Britain as a condition of bail after being charged with trespass and theft from London zoos. Marylebone magistrates, north-west London, bailed Jan Stacey, 23, Alison Emery, 24, Julie Burgess, 25, Martin Ormond, 25, Sonia Hillidge, 22, Rhian Thomas, 23, and Martin Hughes, 25, all of Greater Manchester, and Joanne Eborer, 23, of Hillingdon, west London, until November 13.

Twin awarded damages

Mary Anne Moore, 27, brain-damaged after she was whacked by a doctor's stethoscope, that she had been pregnant right, was expecting twins, was awarded £325,000 agreed damages at the High Court. Mary Anne, of Chatham, Kent, was deprived of oxygen when Mrs Moore was given a routine drug at All Saints Hospital, Chatham, after giving birth to her brother. The health authority denied liability.

Car deliveries improve

The recession has encouraged the motor industry to step up measures to ensure buyers of new cars receive "factory fresh" vehicles within days of paying a deposit. Production schedules have been improved and stocks held by dealers reduced to cut the numbers of unsold cars. The result is fewer models on show for prospective buyers to see. But if they buy, the car will have left the assembly line about ten days before instead of standing for months in a compound.

Bomb loses bounce

The prototype bomb recovered off Dorset this week is not an early version of the Barnes Wallis bouncing bomb, museum curators said yesterday. The spherical device found in the sea off Chesil Beach is, in fact, the only known working prototype of the top secret Highball, a more advanced project. The 4,000lb weapon was designed to be spun at 1,000rpm for use against battleships and could penetrate the thickest armour.

£150,000 surgery gift

An anonymous donor has given £150,000 to a trust raising money to pay for a liver and bowel transplant for Stuart Masters, 3, of Shoeburyness, Essex. Stuart will have the operation at Pittsburgh Children's Hospital in the United States if the trust can raise £300,000. Stuart's father, Peter, said: "I would love to go and meet this person and thank them. I don't care where the money comes from as long as Stuart gets his operation."

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High notes: the New Zealand-born soprano Dame Kiri Te Kanawa was named artist of the year yesterday and the conductor Sir Georg Solti received a lifetime achievement award at the record industry's annual Gramophone Awards ceremony at the Dorchester in London

Ice-cream to engineering hit

Job cuts push week's total past 9,000

By PATRICIA TEAHAN

THE grip of recession forced another two big employers to axe jobs and more to threaten redundancies yesterday. Seven-five were announced yesterday from Dowty Aerospace Landing Gear at Staverton near Gloucester, and 190 from Dowty Aerospace in Wolverhampton.

Economists added to the gloom, saying that the unemployment levels, currently running at 2.8 million, could top three million by next year.

Neil Mackinnon, chief economist at Citibank said: "Even a devolution and lower interest rates might not be enough to generate growth and help slow the unemployment rate. Rising unemployment may well persist to the end of 1994."

The last time unemployment was at three million was in January 1987, when 10.9 per cent of the workforce was unemployed and the rate was rising from 10.5 per cent of 1986. The current rate is 9.9 per cent.

Birds Eye cut 40 workers from its Gloucester ice-cream factory yesterday. A spokesman said all the redundancies would be voluntary, and there was no shortage of volunteers. The engineering giant

Lakes fight costly and cosy image

By RONALD FAUX

WORDSWORTH, sausages and fine scenery dominate the public awareness of Cumbria, according to a survey by the Cumbria Marketing Initiative launched yesterday in Barrow-in-Furness at a presentation for Michael Headstone, President of the Board of Trade.

Businessmen in the county are anxious to alter this image, and are seeking development area status for West Cumbria ahead of expected further job losses at the VSEL yard in Barrow and in other areas of the county's industry.

Mr Headstone said the initiative deserved to win and he hoped his department would give every support "proper and reasonable in the circumstances". These were difficult economic times, he said. Mr Headstone cut short his visit under pressure of parliamentary business, leaving Cumbrians with no clear idea whether the government would support their initiative in the review of assisted areas.

WORKERS in British industry charged with helping to provide employment are being made redundant in the worst slump since the thirties.

Among the latest casualties are 91 field officers employed by the government-funded Construction Industry Training Board who seek to provide jobs for young people in the building industry.

The training board has seen its intake decrease from an expected figure of more than 14,000 to about 10,000 and of those 2,000 failed to receive sponsorship from firms. In May, the industry had only 933 apprentices, compared with 1,893 a year earlier.

The board had already announced in April it was shedding 120 posts because of the recession and said it saw no improvement until at least 1995. A spokesman said:

"Companies are fighting to survive, so it is not surprising that they are not taking on apprentices."

The Building Employers' Confederation said: "Interest rates must be cut as soon as possible and local authorities must be allowed to use more of the capital receipts from the sale of council houses and land for housing investment."

More than 60,000 jobs have been lost in the engineering industry this year. The Engineering Employers' Fed-

eration said: "We must now expand our manufacturing base to get people permanently back to work. An industrial strategy is needed to shift resources into investment, infrastructure, education and training."

Other casualties this week included 100 employees of 31 venture capital and investment group which helps industry to expand. The cuts were blamed on greater use of information technology and changing patterns of business.

Careers staff are latest victims

By TIM JONES

THE photograph that appears on page 2 of Weekend Times is that of Nick Owen, former presenter of Good Morning Britain, and not of Nicholas Owen the ITN newscaster, whose words appear below the illustration. We apologise for the error.

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WE GO FURTHER

Chess champions battle to a draw

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

THE thirteenth game of the chess championship in Belgrade between Bobby Fischer and Boris Spassky has ended in a draw after 45 moves and 5½ hours of play.

The score in the world record \$5 million (£2.9 million) match is five wins to Fischer and three to Spassky. The final position

White Black White Black
1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bb5 Nc6 5 e5 Bc5 6 Nf5 g6 7 Bg5 Nc6 8 Nc3 Bb6 9 Nf5 Nc6 10 Bb5 Nc6 11 Nf5 Nc6 12 Nc3 Bb6 13 Nf5 Nc6 14 Nc3 Bb6 15 Nf5 Nc6 16 Nc3 Bb6 17 Nf5 Nc6 18 Nc3 Bb6 19 Nf5 Nc6 20 Nc3 Bb6 21 Nf5 Nc6 22 Nc3 Bb6 23 Nf5 Nc6 24 Nc3 Bb6 25 Nf5 Nc6 26 Nc3 Bb6 27 Nf5 Nc6 28 Nc3 Bb6 29 Nf5 Nc6 30 Nc3 Bb6 31 Nf5 Nc6 32 Nc3 Bb6 33 Nf5 Nc6 34 Nc3 Bb6 35 Nf5 Nc6 36 Nc3 Bb6 37 Nf5 Nc6 38 Nc3 Bb6 39 Nf5 Nc6 40 Nc3 Bb6 41 Nf5 Nc6 42 Nc3 Bb6 43 Nf5 Nc6 44 Nc3 Bb6 45 Nf5 Nc6 46 Nc3 Bb6 47 Nf5 Nc6 48 Nc3 Bb6 49 Nf5 Nc6 50 Nc3 Bb6 51 Nf5 Nc6 52 Nc3 Bb6 53 Nf5 Nc6 54 Nc3 Bb6 55 Nf5 Nc6 56 Nc3 Bb6 57 Nf5 Nc6 58 Nc3 Bb6 59 Nf5 Nc6 60 Nc3 Bb6 61 Nf5 Nc6 62 Nc3 Bb6 63 Nf5 Nc6 64 Nc3 Bb6 65 Nf5 Nc6 66 Nc3 Bb6 67 Nf5 Nc6 68 Nc3 Bb6 69 Nf5 Nc6 70 Nc3 Bb6 71 Nf5 Nc6 72 Nc3 Bb6 73 Nf5 Nc6 74 Nc3 Bb6 75 Nf5 Nc6 76 Nc3 Bb6 77 Nf5 Nc6 78 Nc3 Bb6 79 Nf5 Nc6 80 Nc3 Bb6 81 Nf5 Nc6 82 Nc3 Bb6 83 Nf5 Nc6 84 Nc3 Bb6 85 Nf5 Nc6 86 Nc3 Bb6 87 Nf5 Nc6 88 Nc3 Bb6 89 Nf5 Nc6 90 Nc3 Bb6 91 Nf5 Nc6 92 Nc3 Bb6 93 Nf5 Nc6 94 Nc3 Bb6 95 Nf5 Nc6 96 Nc3 Bb6 97 Nf5 Nc6 98 Nc3 Bb6 99 Nf5 Nc6 100 Nc3 Bb6 101 Nf5 Nc6 102 Nc3 Bb6 103 Nf5 Nc6 104 Nc3 Bb6 105 Nf5 Nc6 106 Nc3 Bb6 107 Nf5 Nc6 108 Nc3 Bb6 109 Nf5 Nc6 110 Nc3 Bb6 111 Nf5 Nc6 112 Nc3 Bb6 113 Nf5 Nc6 114 Nc3 Bb6 115 Nf5 Nc6 116 Nc3 Bb6 117 Nf5 Nc6 118 Nc3 Bb6 119 Nf5 Nc6 120 Nc3 Bb6 121 Nf5 Nc6 122 Nc3 Bb6 123 Nf5 Nc6 124 Nc3 Bb6 125 Nf5 Nc6 126 Nc3 Bb6 127 Nf5 Nc6 128 Nc3 Bb6 129 Nf5 Nc6 130 Nc3 Bb6 131 Nf5 Nc6 132 Nc3 Bb6 133 Nf5 Nc6 134 Nc3 Bb6 135 Nf5 Nc6 136 Nc3 Bb6 137 Nf5 Nc6 138 Nc3 Bb6 139 Nf5 Nc6 140 Nc3 Bb6 141 Nf5 Nc6 142 Nc3 Bb6 143 Nf5 Nc6 144 Nc3 Bb6 145 Nf5 Nc6 146 Nc3 Bb6 147 Nf5 Nc6 148 Nc3 Bb6 149 Nf5 Nc6 150 Nc3 Bb6 151 Nf5 Nc6 152 Nc3 Bb6 153 Nf5 Nc6 154 Nc3 Bb6 155 Nf5 Nc6 156 Nc3 Bb6 157 Nf5 Nc6 158 Nc3 Bb6 159 Nf5 Nc6 160 Nc3 Bb6 161 Nf5 Nc6 162 Nc3 Bb6 163 Nf5 Nc6 164 Nc3 Bb6 165 Nf5 Nc6 166 Nc3 Bb6 167 Nf5 Nc6 168 Nc3 Bb6 169 Nf5 Nc6 170 Nc3 Bb6 171 Nf5 Nc6 172 Nc3 Bb6 173 Nf5 Nc6 174 Nc3 Bb6 175 Nf5 Nc6 176 Nc3 Bb6 177 Nf5 Nc6 178 Nc3 Bb6 179 Nf5 Nc6 180 Nc3 Bb6 181 Nf5 Nc6 182 Nc3 Bb6 183 Nf5 Nc6 184 Nc3 Bb6 185 Nf5 Nc6 186 Nc3 Bb6 187 Nf5 Nc6 188 Nc3 Bb6 189 Nf5 Nc6 190 Nc3 Bb6 191 Nf5 Nc6 192 Nc3 Bb6 193 Nf5 Nc6 194 Nc3 Bb6 195 Nf5 Nc6 196 Nc3 Bb6 197 Nf5 Nc6 198 Nc3 Bb6 199 Nf5 Nc6 200 Nc3 Bb6 201 Nf5 Nc6 202 Nc3 Bb6 203 Nf5 Nc6 204 Nc3 Bb6 205 Nf5 Nc6 20



CHRIS HARRIS

Conference sketch

Evolution outstrips party revolution

Tis a fluttering of red flags, with Union Jacks in each corner, John Smith yesterday hugged a baby and held hands with Margaret Beckett as the band played *Auld Lang Syne*. The baby burst into tears.

The best show in town? At the amusement complex beneath Blackpool Tower, they advertise "A Journey Through Time". Here, says the ad, we may see extinct monsters lurking through the swamp, thrill as giant lizards bare their teeth, and gape as we watch a volcano erupt.

Before the closing session and rally at the Labour party's conference yesterday, I visited the tower and queued for this *Journey Through Time*.

It was well presented. A little train took riders on a corkscrewing track through a tunnel of exhibits. After the prehistoric swamp, came the lizards and the volcano; then monkeys, a missing link, and the "first man" — looking like a caveman with glasses with champagne.

And there were two more, not this week. They too occurred at the wrong time — after the prehistoric age was supposed to be over. Pre-history ended, so we were told midweek, with the extinction of left-wing Dennis Skinner and Euro-sceptical Bryan Gould from the national executive committee — swept away in a business lobbyists' revolt after glasses with champagne.

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There was a sabre-toothed tiger, and a hairy mammoth. Then we whizzed through all the ages of modern man and ended with astronauts in space suits. I returned to the Winter Gardens. How was the Labour party getting on?

If you want a graphic illustration of the evolution of man from the mud, then frankly I recommend the Labour conference: the prehistoric bits are more horrific and the lizards more lifelike. But be warned: it may put you off lunch. For a start, the sense of primitive menace is more immediate with John Prescott than the caveman. The sabre-toothed tiger was very fearsome, but not as fearsome as Margaret Beckett; and Alan Tufin of the Union of Communication Workers has a brontosaurus quality which paper mache could never capture.

I shuddered at the reptiles from the swamp, but for shivers down the spine by a speech by Gerald Kaufman. The Tower's young astronaut was realistic, but Tony Blair is so incredibly modern that, placed in a tin foil suit and supplied with an inter-galactic mobile phone, he would achieve weightlessness without seconds.

There is one respect in which the tower centre does score: it is intellectually coherent. Each emu is placed in its proper compartment: you know where you are. At the

Caveman Prescott was a huge hit, too, while astronaut Blair ("the yuppie lawyer" Mr Skinner called him) got a gingerly reception. Conference seemed to suffer from flashbacks.

The sensation was reinforced at around 2.30am yesterday, near the bar of the Imperial Hotel, when Labour's general secretary, Larry Whitty, joined partygoers at the piano for an impromptu recital of old-time hits by Tom Jones. Some seven hours later, a brass band from the Potteries serenaded John Smith as he waved from the platform: a moving, homely finish, dating from an era well before the laserage glitz with which Labour gift-wrapped its leader last year.

But into the future. Where to? Where from? Passengers on Labour's train this week have hardly been agreed. But they like their new conductor. They are enjoying the journey through time.

MATTHEW PARRIS

Smith vows to keep pressure on Tories

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR plans to keep up a relentless attack on the state of the economy and the government's broken manifesto promises in the House of Commons over the next few months.

John Smith intends to focus on the government's mishandling of the economy and on public spending cuts, which he is certain will be worse than predicted. He and other members of the shadow cabinet are expected to highlight each spending cut as it is announced by the government and compare it with the Conservative election manifesto.

"I suspect we are heading for very severe expenditure cuts which will be very damaging to the economy and upset public services by depriving them of finances," Mr Smith said yesterday, after his party's annual conference in Blackpool. "It would be hard to imagine a government that has acted more incompetently than we have seen in recent weeks. Their economic policy is demolished."

He said he had never heard of a situation where a Chancellor and prime minister were going to their own conference with no idea of their economic policy.

Earlier Mr Smith wrote to

the prime minister asking him to spell out in detail the events leading to "Black Wednesday". Although Mr Major was still insisting that there was no alternative to the withdrawal from the exchange rate mechanism, the Bundesbank had claimed it had suggested a general realignment of ERM currencies to the German government on September 11. In addition the Bank of England had not asked the Bundesbank to take any further action beyond the intervention required under EMS rules.

"Given the fundamental disagreement that exists between the British and German governments' versions of events, it is quite unacceptable for the government to attempt to sweep this problem under the carpet," Mr Smith wrote.

"Your credibility and that of your Chancellor will remain in doubt until you make a statement which totally resolves the scientific and substantial differences. The British public deserve to know the truth about all the options considered."

Meanwhile Gordon Brown,

the shadow chancellor, and Margaret Beckett, the party's deputy leader, continued to

argue the government over the economy. Mr Brown challenged Norman Lamont to give detailed costings of the government's mistakes. "Yesterday's drop in currency reserves was the first instalment of the bill now being paid by the British people for the government's mishandling of the economic crisis." Together with the Ecu loan, the eventual bill could be £1 billion, he said.

"It is now time we had full answers to our questions about the government's handling of events, what the operation cost, why the government did not consider realignment in preference to devaluation, and why the Bank of England failed to ask the Bundesbank to take further action."

In television interviews, the Labour leadership again refused to spell out its tactics once the Maastricht ratification bill is reintroduced in the Commons. While it is likely the party will vote against the guillotine at the committee stage of the bill Mr Smith, who is personally committed to the party's pro-European policy, will not want to be seen to be wrecking the chances of ratifying the Maastricht treaty.

Senior officials, delighted that the lacklustre debates had kept Tory troubles on the front pages and their problems

ing for scapegoats with delegates turning on the leadership, leadership candidates publicly contradicting each other amid massive financial problems.

"Then I thought, 'why do I need to worry about what happens in Brighton next week?'

The punchline was apt for a conference that has refused to examine its own navel. There were no damaging recriminations over the election, mainly because the leadership and the

party left Blackpool united, despite its election defeat, writes Jill Sherman

NEC deftly turned the attention on John Major and Norman Lamont.

John Smith later claimed that the conference had neither been embittered nor divisive because the delegates realise the election campaign had been vigorous and honest.

"Instead of being a debilitating conference it has been a launch pad to lead us to victory in the next election," he said.

Even Bryan Gould's resignation over Europe on Sunday was only a 24-hour irritation.

The quick dismissal of delegates' views reflected the dwindling weight of conference opinion. With the policy review group being set up in the

next few months, this year effectively marks the end of policy making at conference.

Fiercely performances by Denis Skinner and Arthur Scargill condemning plans for pincer closures, with a minor disturbance from Bill Jordan, president of the AEEU, proved merely an entertaining and nostalgic reminder of the more heated passion of previous conferences.

The leadership could hardly contain its relief that the party was still breathing, if drowsy. Margaret Beckett said: "This week Labour has pulled together — next week the Tories will fall apart."

Unrefined ladies: two of the covers that were snapped up yesterday

Dull debate takes the heat off Labour's leadership

THE Labour leadership yesterday shrugged off a heavy defeat on defence spending as a minor "aberration", and made it clear it had no intention of changing policy in this area.

Against national executive committee advice, delegates had earlier carried a resolution by more than 3.5 million votes, calling for defence spending to be brought down to the European average.

Although John Evans, the conference chairman, said the NEC always took account of conference decisions, officials made it clear later that the defeat on defence spending, now a regular feature of Labour conferences, would be effectively ignored.

The small hiccup was barely noticed as officials celebrated the end of a dull conference where divisions and recriminations over the election defeat were kept firmly under wraps.

The conference ended on a much less triumphant note than last year. There was no opera singer and no *We Are the Champions*. The concluding fanfare was confined to the traditional rendition of the Red Flag, and *Auld Lang Syne*.

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Herbicide treats rare child disease

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A CHEMICAL developed by ICI as a herbicide has turned out to be effective in treating a rare inherited disease in children.

A team in Stockholm has used nitro-trifluoromethylbenzoyl-cyclohexanone (NTBC) to prolong the lives of nine infants suffering from a metabolic disorder that usually leads to liver failure and death before they are 20.

NTBC was invented by ICI Agrochemicals in Richmond, California, which hoped it would prove a profitable weedkiller. Samples were sent to ICI's Central Toxicology Laboratory in Macclesfield, Cheshire, where Dr Edward Lock and colleagues discovered in animal experiments that it had an effect on the metabolism of tyrosine, the amino acid.

Seeking a pure form of a human enzyme to continue the experiments, Dr Lock scanned the scientific literature and found that Professor Sven Lindstedt, of Sahlgrenska Hospital at Gothenburg University, had isolated the enzyme in Sweden, had isolated it while studying tyrosinaemia, a hereditary disease. He called Professor Lindstedt, who said that NTBC might be worth trying as a drug.

In this week's issue of *The Lancet*, they report their results. The effect of NTBC is to prolong the lives of nine infants suffering from a metabolic disorder that usually leads to liver failure and death before they are 20.

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Forgotten genre hits the heights at auction

By JOHN SHAW

Purple prose — "Emma used men as playthings ... then one day a guy named Lew taught her a new game" — and fantasy artwork brought unexpected high prices when a forgotten aspect of 1940s culture came under the hammer in London yesterday.

A collection of 39 lurid covers for spicy French romantic novels and gangster paperbacks with titles such as *Daughters of Shame*, *Bought Love*, *The Lady Says No* and *Sister Move Over*, had been estimated to make between £4,000 and £6,000 — but collectors paid £26,829 — at Christie's in South Kensington.

The books were published mainly by Kaye, an imprint based in Holborn, whose heyday was from 1949-54.

The firm's progress was curtailed when the books were round at the Old Bailey to have been Ace Capelli.

Bernard and Alfred Kaye were jailed and two of their authors were heavily fined. But Leonard Percy Gard, the artist responsible for many of the covers, was acquitted when it was established that his work was submitted before the books were written.

These covers have tremendous visual appeal," he said. "I've got 50 hanging on the walls of my home. You



Unrefined ladies: two of the covers that were snapped up yesterday

could say it's wall-to-wall sleeve art but at the same time they're very evocative of a certain post-war style. The stuff inside is tame than Mills and Boon now.

Steve Chilton, a lecturer in media studies at Leicester Polytechnic, which has recently been given university status, spent just over £1,000 on *This Man Is Death* by Ace Capelli. He has a collection of between 15,000 and 20,000 period paperbacks he trades with called The Pulp Archive.

A collectors' convention is to be held at the Grosvenor Hotel in London on October 10. A main guest will be Denis McLaughlin, 73, from Bolton, Greater Manchester, one of the top artists from the period who now draws for children's comics.

An Edison kinetoscope, the first practical cinema projector and one of 12 believed to survive from 1,000 made in America in 1894, fetched a record £21,450 (estimated £5,000-£8,000) at Sotheby's in London. A Powell and Lealand compound molecular microscope dated 1842 also set a new auction record when it made £22,000.

10. A main guest will be Denis McLaughlin, 73, from Bolton, Greater Manchester, one of the top artists from the period who now draws for children's comics.

11. An Edison kinetoscope, the first practical cinema projector and one of 12 believed to survive from 1,000 made in America in 1894, fetched a record £21,450 (estimated £5,000-£8,000) at Sotheby's in London. A Powell and Lealand compound molecular microscope dated 1842 also set a new auction record when it made £22,000.

12. The village hall is an essential component of village life. As well as the traditional range of social and leisure activities, many village halls now provide luncheon clubs for the elderly, drop-in centres for the unemployed, crèches, and are increasingly being used for clinics, surgeries, libraries, post offices and shops.

13. The new laws demand in many cases new floor and wall coverings, improved ventilation and better lavatories.

Rubens reappears after 150 years

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND, SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

CHRISTIE'S is to sell a striking Rubens portrait of a woman that has been missing for more than 150 years.

But the company refuses to disclose the identity of the owner who stands to make up to £1.5 million from it. Not even Professor Michael Jaffe, the Rubens expert who was called in to view the painting last week, has been told.

The *Portrait of Madame de Vioq*, complete with lavish multi-layered neck ruff, was last seen in public at Christie's in May 1848. Then, it was sold by one "William Wells Esq of Redleaf" for 205 guineas, to a predecessor of the present owner, as Christie's coyly says.

At the same sale on December 11, Christie's hope to raise up to £6.5 million with the finest work by the Dutch seventeenth century painter Pieter de Hooch to come on the market for a generation.

The painting, *The Courtyard of a House in Delft*, has been on loan over the past 25 years to the National Gallery of Scotland, the Fitzwilliam Museum and the Treasures Houses exhibition in Washington.

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INTERVIEW & JOURNAL

BY LIN JENKINS

THAT quintessential feature of the British rural tradition, the village hall, has been saved by an injection of cash. Grants from the Rural Development Commission will enable village halls in communities with fewer than 3,000 people to meet standards demanded by new legislation. Many were in danger of closing or having activities severely restricted.

To be licensed for public

Buccaneering king of Fiat secures his dynasty's future



Agnelli: economic views make the headlines

GIANNI Agnelli's decision to step down by 1994 as chairman of the Fiat car company will not erode his immense power in Italy, but has left Italians wondering who ultimately will succeed him as head of his clan.

Even before confirming his intention to shareholders this week, "L'Avvocato" (the lawyer), or "Il Re" (the King), as Signor Agnelli, 71, is known, said he would pass the chair to his younger brother Umberto. However, Signor Agnelli will continue to run his vast empire as long as he is able to, insiders say. His interests have expanded beyond car production into many fields, such as newspaper publishing (including control of the *Corriere della Sera* and *La Stampa*).

insurance, banking, chemicals, textiles, missile technology and munitions, mineral water and beer.

After he formally hands over the running of Fiat, Signor Agnelli will remain head of the family holding company which controls Fiat. He strengthened personal and family control of the Turin group by creating a "family safe" that is a form of limited partnership. It brought together 76 per cent of Agnelli family holdings.

Abandoning the chairmanship has been seen as a shrewd move, writes John Phillips from Rome

Signor Agnelli is undisputed head of his clan. Strategic decisions on Fiat are unthinkable without his approval. He long ago delegated day-to-day management to the chief executive of Fiat, Cesare Romiti. But the succession has troubled Signor Agnelli for a decade. His restless son Edoardo has shown more interest in eastern philosophy than producing cars.

Umberto will remain Fiat chairman for perhaps a decade. It is assumed that Giovanni Agnelli, son of Um-

berto, will subsequently assume control of the dynasty.

Giovanni, 28, is a popular figure who did his military service as a private in a parachute regiment of the Carabinieri paramilitary police. His training included months on a Fiat assembly line, under a pseudonym. He has travelled widely in Asia, considered an important future market for Fiat. He is managing director of the Motovespa scooter company in Madrid.

The corruption scandal that has named 150 Milanese and businessmen in Milan has not left the Fiat image unscathed. A judge is investigating the alleged involvement of executives of a Fiat-controlled construction firm. This week Signor Romiti declared: "The matters that have involved many politicians and entrepreneurs, touching even a group of our size, have shown

how difficult is the defence of ethical principles. As a citizen and an entrepreneur, one cannot but feel ashamed."

Signor Agnelli has always scorned formal politics. But his pronouncements on economic policy make headlines. His status as a national patriarch is such that he is viewed as part of the Italian establishment. Less prominent may help deflect potential criticism from a disillusioned public.

Abandoning the Fiat chairmanship is also a shrewd move as a single European market is bound to lead to pressure from Brussels for Italy to bring its anti-monopoly legislation in line with other EC countries.

In 1935 Signor Agnelli

inherited the Fiat dynasty at the age of 14 after his father Edoardo died in an air crash. He took over the chairmanship in 1966. The group's business methods were frequently seen as unorthodox.

In 1965 (as managing director) Signor Agnelli penetrated the East European market ahead of competitors by constructing in the Soviet Union a factory making the Lada car. In 1977 he made a deal giving Libya a 9.6 per cent interest in Fiat; the Libyan state was bought out in 1986.

Signor Agnelli has moved to assure the future of his dynasty with the same single-mindedness he deploys in business. Will anyone in the Italy of the future be able to match his brand of buccaneering charm?

US and Turkey seek to limit damage of sea missile accident

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ANKARA AND MICHAEL EVANS IN BIELEFELD

TURKEY and the United States spent yesterday patching the damage to relations after joint Nato manoeuvres in the Eastern Aegean went tragically wrong and the aircraft carrier, *Saratoga*, fired two anti-aircraft missiles by mistake, one of which hit a Turkish destroyer, the *Muavenet*, killing its commanding officer and four crew. Fifteen others were reported injured.

The Turkish and American military yesterday launched an immediate investigation to discover why the two Sea Sparrow missiles were set off at all, let alone at midnight when no shooting exercises were taking place. A brief statement by the Turkish chief of staff described the affair as an accident.

The State Department yesterday hastened to express its regret. A message conveyed to

the Turkish ambassador in Washington spoke of American "agony" over what happened. The Turkish government will be anxious to restore public's faith in Nato. Yesterday, Suleyman Demirel, the Turkish prime minister, called for patience as he attempted to play down the accident, and promised there would be a full and immediate explanation.

One of Turkey's fears, since the ending of the Cold war, is that both the role of the organisation and Turkey's importance in it would diminish. Ankara is particularly concerned that responsibility for European defence should not devolve to the Western European Union, of which, unlike Greece, it has not been offered full membership.

While Turkey is concerned over the long-term future of the alliance on its western

flank, a segment of public opinion is worried about the fruits of co-operation in the southeast of the country. In words uttered while in opposition that may have haunted him yesterday, Mr Demirel accused the previous government of turning Turkey into "the USS Saratoga" — simply an aircraft carrier serving other interests. His government later renewed the mandate of Operation Provide Comfort, whereby allied planes give cover for a de facto Kurdish entity in northern Iraq. That mandate must be renewed at the end of this year.

Yesterday, the real *Saratoga* was back in action as Display Determination, codename for the military exercises, went ahead. The *Muavenet* returned without aid to Izmir, 80 miles away. The ship appears to have escaped serious damage. A fire on the bridge was contained with help from the landing craft, the USS *Iwo Jima* and crew from the *Saratoga*.

A Pentagon spokeswoman, Major Katherine Ingram, said one missile hit the bridge of the *Muavenet*. Fire broke out but was extinguished in 15 minutes, she said. The two ships were about three miles apart when the missiles were taken accidentally.

Early reports had put the number of dead at nine, but a spokesman at the European headquarters of the US Navy, in London, said that figure — based on information from Turkish authorities — had been revised to five. Two seriously injured sailors were taken by helicopter to the *Iwo Jima*, an amphibious attack ship participating in the exercise, while the other injured were flown to Izmir, according to a Turkish foreign ministry official.

General John Shalikashvili, the American supreme allied commander Europe, said in Bielefeld, Germany, that he wanted to express his "deep regret" at the tragedy, and on behalf of the United States offered his apologies and sympathy to the families of the victims. He said: "We will do everything in our power to assure an open, quick and full investigation into this matter." A naval board of enquiry had been formed and an investigating officer was now at the scene.

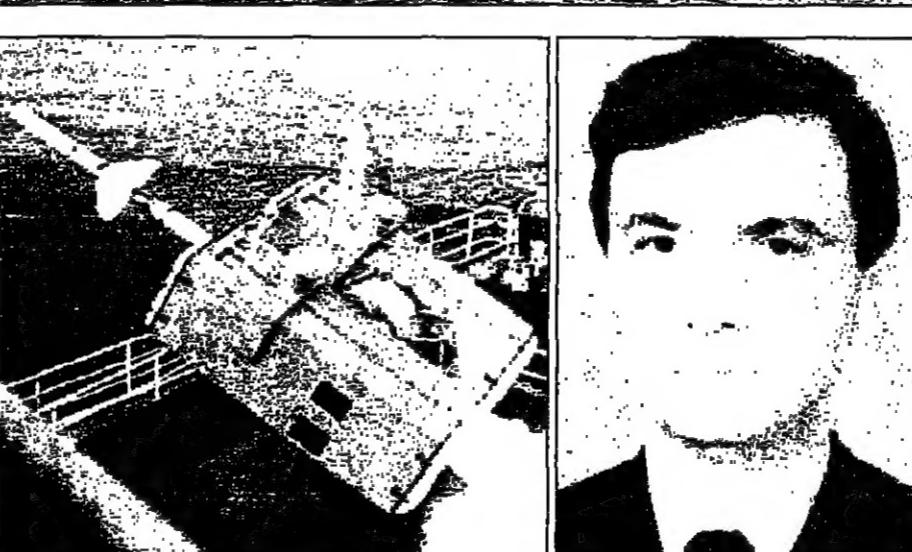
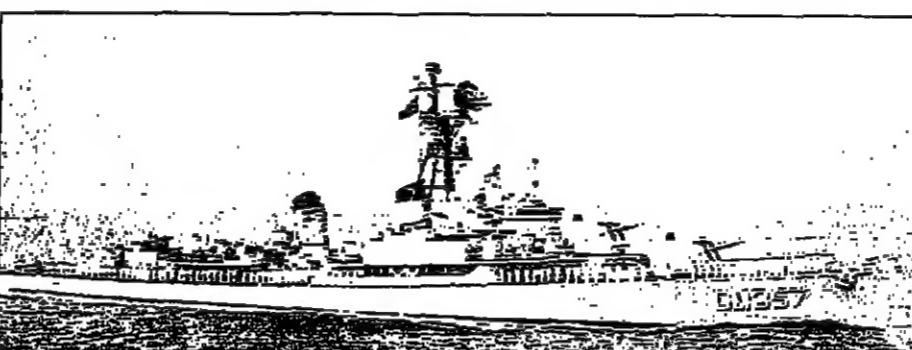
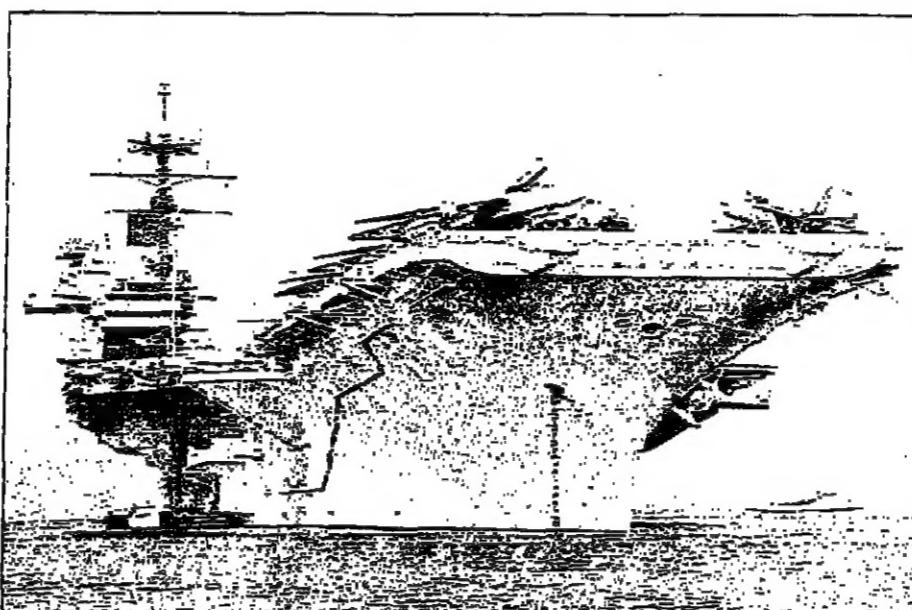
Mr Mitsotakis admitted that Community solidarity played a large part in the decision, but said the EC had no alternative. "I sincerely believe that the Community will not depart from its decision," he said. He was more worried about American policy. Last December, in the White House for Greece's view of the Balkans, now Washington's policy had changed.

He again offered Macedonia economic and political support if it changed its name, saying the republic would always have to depend on Greece, but "ten million Greeks justifiably reject the use of the name 'Macedonia'".

This is seen here as not only stealing Greece's identity, political and cultural heritage but also as stoking up future fires of nationalism and irredentism that could lead the Slav republic to claim northern Greece. He said that no Greek government could commit suicide by such recognition. Any way, it would not resolve the issue.

Mr Mitsotakis admitted that Greece had had a bad press abroad. That was unfair, he said, although his case was understood at least at summit level. "The Skopje problem was not one we created: it was created by Stalin and Tito. We did everything possible to be reasonable and will follow a policy of stability and peace because we are a Balkan country and above all a European country," he said.

Manfred Wörner, the Nato secretary-general, also in Bielefeld, said he was "deeply saddened" by the incident and offered his regrets and sympathy to the families.



Elements of tragedy: the USS *Saratoga*, top, which fired two Sparrow missiles at the Turkish destroyer *Muavenet*, shown in the centre. The missile, from the same family as that shown bottom left, killed Captain Kudret Gungor, bottom right, and four crew

Truth gives way to fantasy and horror in Yugoslav media war

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

SEVERED heads, prisoners burnt to death on spits and women being kept in a special detention centre to bear their rapists babies: as if the truth were not bad enough, such stories, all of which have appeared this week in the media of the former Yugoslavia, are the daily fare of war by other means. Mixing truth, fantasy and horror, the war is justified by the most horrendous of claims, few of which can ever be verified.

The Bosnian government's War Crimes Commission says that a pattern of systematic rape of Muslim girls by Serbs has emerged across Serb-held territory. One unnamed witness told a Western news agency that she had been imprisoned for five months with 20 other girls after being raped. She said: "They said, 'You won't be delivering a Muslim, you will be delivering a Serb. We will keep you long enough so you won't be able to have an abortion.'

Ilija Ekmećić, an official of the Bosnian Serb "foreign ministry", scoffed at the report. "Whatever they claim is what they themselves are doing. We had 100 girls aged from ten years old and up and they were four months pregnant. They were Serbian girls slaves from Sarajevo prisons."

Mr Ekmećić said he had not wondered why the girls had not been presented to the Western media as they would make good propaganda. And therein, of course, is the rub.

Over the past week, Serbian television and newspapers have been full of pictures of a grinning man of Middle Eastern appearance holding a severed head by the hair.

Another picture shows a box with two more heads, yet another a headless corpse.

Allegedly they are pictures of Serb victims captured from Muslim forces. It is impossible to know if they are genuine.

The message tells Serbs that the Mujahidin are on their doorstep and that this fate awaits all who underestimate the jihad being waged against them.

Another story put out by

a news agency claimed that Turkish fighters were settling "ethnically cleansed" Serb villages and Serb girls were being forced to marry them. This week television has shown the bloated and burnt bodies of Serbs allegedly massacred by Muslims in eastern Bosnia. Certainly they died horrible deaths but most foreign news organisations shy away from reporting that "according to pathologists" two of the victims were "spit barbecued" — a traditional Balkan wartime barbarity.

The propaganda war is vicious. Last year a world news agency suffered a severe blow to its credibility, when it reported that Croat forces had murdered 41 Serb children before retreating from Vukovar. The story was untrue. Whenever foreign correspondents are out in the field, they are constantly fed outlandish horror stories.

Ninety-nine out of 100 people who tell such tales have only heard about the horror rather than seen it.

For Russian capitalism, albeit dogged by hallmarks of the *ancien régime*. The distribution to all citizens of a 10,000 rouble (£18) voucher share in former Soviet state assets continued sluggish yesterday after a first day dogged by shortages, lack of information and caution verging on indifference.

The idea is to give Russia a large middle class that will develop an understanding of the market economy, as distinct from the present, politically dangerous division into a passive work force and aggressive, often unscrupulous, entrepreneurs. But the scheme is open to criticism in that the vouchers are likely to become the objects of embezzlement or extortion.

If anyone had forgotten

that Romania is still in the throes of a presidential election, the opposition candidate wasted little time in reminding the crowd. Dressed in a denim jacket, Emil Constantinescu, who arrived to cheer, spent half an hour signing autographs. President Iliescu, his opponent, was booed.

Back in action: Martin Bell, the BBC reporter who was injured in Yugoslavia, in front of the cameras yesterday for the first time since his injury, covering the inauguration of the Nato Rapid Reaction corps in Bielefeld, Germany. Bell was wounded by shrapnel during a mortar attack in Sarajevo just five weeks ago.

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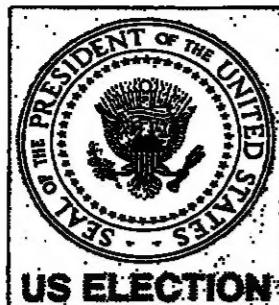
Perot bounces back to savage Bush in Rockies stronghold

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN DENVER

AT Ross Perot's smart headquarters in a modern Denver office block supporters shrieked and cried and slapped each other's backs when their man announced his candidacy on Thursday. A couple of miles away at the considerably dingier headquarters of the Bush campaign the pleasure was scarcely less.

An hour after the announcement Michael Hesse, Mr Bush's state director, explained that while Bill Clinton led President Bush by a half dozen points in the Rocky Mountain state his support was soft. The Texan billionaire could siphon off enough to eliminate that lead. "This really levels the playing field," he enthused. "It has thrown the cards up in the air." It had, but not in the manner he hoped.

At the Clinton headquarters Fred Duval, Mr Hesse's opposite number, concurred with the Republican's analysis, though with hardly the same enthusiasm. "We were cruising," he lamented. "We were on a confident glidepath to a two-way victory... Now we have to start everything all over again." But at that moment Mr Duval was summoned next door to watch the local evening news on Chan-



points. He had been disengaged to trust them, he said. His instincts told him he should be "running scared" at Mr Perot's re-entry.

The Channel Four poll could yet prove a one-off, and Mr Hesse may yet be vindicated, but Mr Clinton has nonetheless made remarkable inroads in a state that last backed a Democrat in 1964. In March he lost the Democratic primary here to Jerry Brown. By early summer he was trailing a distant third behind Mr Perot, in first place, and Mr Bush. When Mr Perot dropped out in July his supporters divided two to one in Mr Clinton's favour, not because they liked Mr Clinton but because they disliked Mr Bush even more.

Since then he has gone from strength to strength, boosted by a successful party convention and his selection of Al Gore, an ardent environmentalist, as running mate.

The Democrats have now raised more money per capita in Colorado than anywhere except Arkansas, where Mr Clinton is governor. They have upgraded it from a place to stretch Republican resources to a genuine battleground state. Mr Clinton recently addressed a Denver rally of 30,000 people, the state's biggest political turnout since Harry Truman came in 1948. The campaign has been "as close to picture perfect as I could have imagined", said Mr Duval.

There were good reasons to believe Mr Clinton's supporters were primarily anti-Bush and susceptible to a renewed Perot candidacy, but in fact they have "sort of solidified", said Bob Drake, a Colorado pollster. For Mr Clinton, Mr Perot's re-entry may paradoxically prove less dangerous in Colorado than the prospect of Mr Perot now fading, sending Republicans back to Mr Bush just before election day.

• Anderson backing: The former Beirut hostage and Middle East correspondent Terry Anderson announced yesterday that he was resigning from the Associated Press and endorsing Mr Clinton.

Mr Anderson was freed last December after nearly seven years as a captive in Lebanon. He has been on leave from his

Sport could steal the debate show

FROM DAVID ESPO IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush and Bill Clinton will hold three high-stakes debates between October 11 and 19 under a tentative schedule worked out by aides, a source familiar with the talks said yesterday. Ross Perot will be invited to participate.

The source also said that the schedule envisions one debate involving Vice-President Dan Quayle; his Democratic rival, Senator Al Gore; and Mr Perot's ticket-mate, retired Admiral James Stockdale.

Details of the encounters remain to be negotiated, the source said, including the sites, sponsorship, audiences, and precise times. But under the proposed timetable each of the debates seemed likely to conflict with an important sporting event, either post-season baseball games or the National Football League's Monday night football.

Mr Clinton holds a double-digit lead in the polls, but the prospect of a condensed debate schedule — along with Mr Perot's formal entry into the race and a three-way multi-million-dollar advertising war — sets the stage for a tumultuous final month of campaigning.

The first debate, the source said, would be held tomorrow week, followed by a vice-presidential encounter, then two more presidential confrontations, the final one on October 19, the source said.

The details of the debate plan emerged as Mr Bush, in a television interview, hailed a slight decline in the jobless rate as "very good news". In its last monthly unemployment report before election day, the government announced that the rate edged down from 7.6

per cent to 7.5 per cent last month, and dropped in seven of 11 industrial states.

Economists disputed that interpretation, however. "The economy is still flat as a pancake," David Wynn, an economist at DRI-McGraw Hill in Lexington, Massachusetts, said. "The good news is that the recession ended in April 1991, but the bad news is that the recovery has not started yet."

The Democratic candidate, whose strategy is based on a pledge to revive the economy, had three campaign visits planned yesterday, and aides said he would emphasise his commitment to creating jobs.

The debate talks went on for parts of two days under a cloak of secrecy. Robert Teeter, the Bush campaign chairman, said that the talks would be concluded yesterday with an announcement today of the sites, dates and other details.

One of the debates will be chaired by a single moderator, a former favoured by Mr Clinton, one source said. Another debate will follow the format Mr Bush had sought, a panel of reporters questioning the candidates.

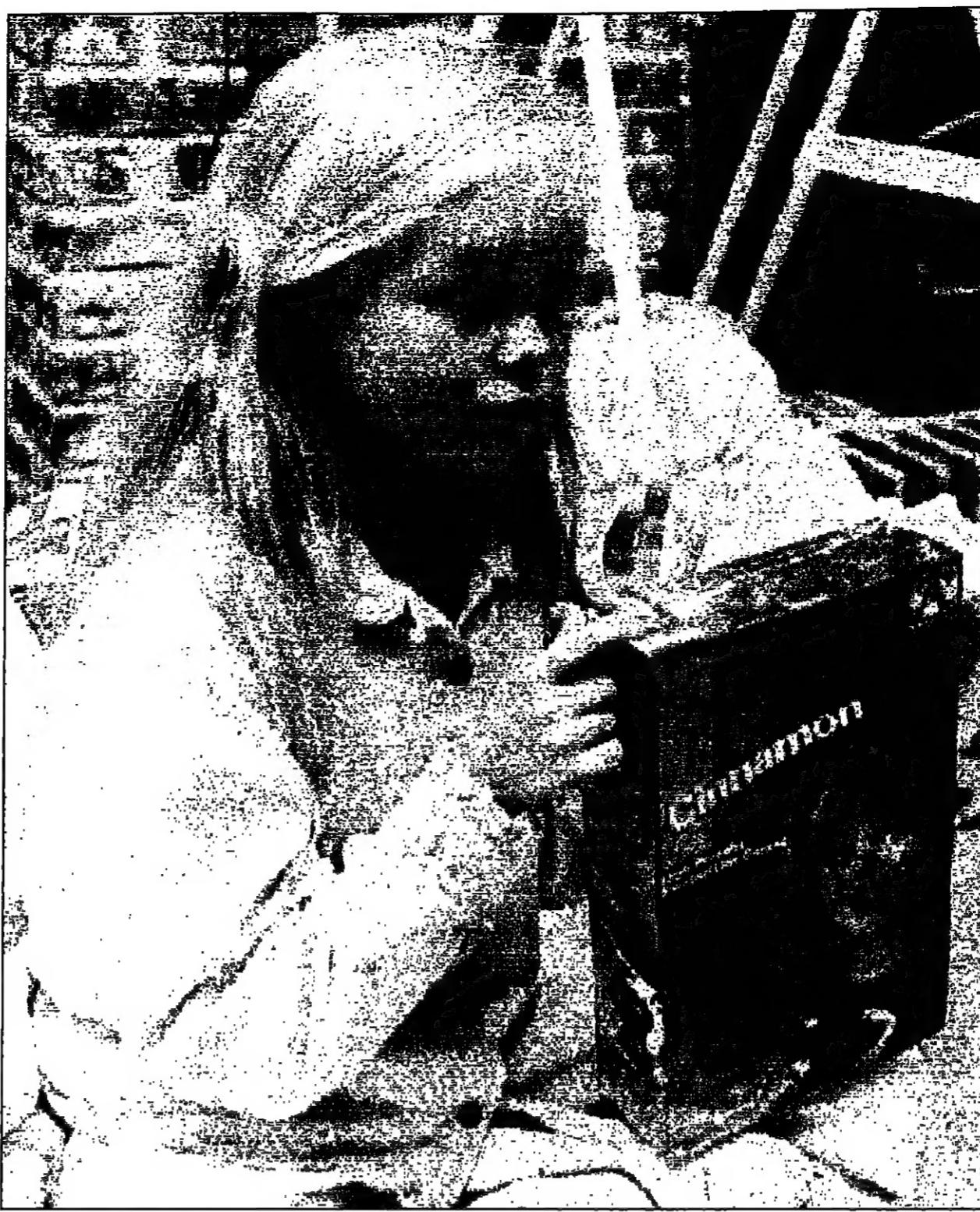
Having been on the defensive for weeks for his refusal to accept the single-moderator format, President Bush made an unexpected offer this week to debate with Governor Clinton on four successive Sundays, beginning tomorrow week. The Clinton camp opposed holding a debate on November 1, two days before the election. Mr Clinton's running mate, Mr Gore, said this week that an 11th-hour debate would leave little time for each candidate to rebut fresh charges. (AP)



Gore gave a boost to Democratic ticket

news agency, and yesterday addressed 200 executives at a meeting of the New England Newspaper Association. He said: "I think he [Mr Clinton] has great ideas, and I think it's time for some of these fresh ideas."

Mr Anderson, 44, was asked whether he might enter politics himself. "It's an option and a possibility, and I've got a year to make up my mind," he replied. He has a year-long fellowship at Columbia University and is writing a book. (AP)



Power of one: Adriane Caggiano, an aspiring actress who modelled for a cereal product, can count herself as one of the people who persuaded Ross Perot to return to the election fray (Jamie Dettmer writes from Washington).

She wrote to the Dallas billionaire urging him to stand again. In her letter, the girl from rural Augusta, Kansas, said: "I am nine years old, almost ten. I wish you would really run for president and I wish I could

vote." After reading from her letter, Mr Perot urged journalists to "take a look at this little girl and her sisters, and you'll say whatever it takes we've got to do it, we've got to pass on the American dream to them".

Liberal state falls to the anti-gay vote

Portland, Oregon is the scene for the most vitriolic attack yet in America on homosexuality, colouring the debate on family values, Ben Macintyre writes

LON Mabon keeps a bronze statuette of David and Goliath on his office desk in the suburbs of Portland — it is a fitting motif, in his own mind, for the battle he has waged against homosexuality for the past 20 years.

In the gay district of Portland, *David and Goliath* is also used as a motif, but with a rather different meaning. "Lon Mabon is a fascist," pronounces Rick, a self-proclaimed "serious homosexual", who wears a T-shirt depicting David and Goliath in a passionate embrace.

Rick the gay biker and Lon Mabon the anti-gay activist represent opposite poles in a bitter battle over homosexuality that is raging in Oregon, and which has coloured the wider political debate on American family values.

On November 3 citizens of Oregon will vote on the most stringent anti-homosexual measure ever proposed in a state: if it is passed, "Measure 9" would classify homosexuality as "abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse"; it would nullify laws forbidding discrimination against homosexuals and require the government to discourage homosexuality (together with sadism, masochism and paedophilia).

That Oregon, once consid-

ered one of the most liberal states in America, should have become the scene for an important offensive against gay rights is largely the work of Mr Mabon and the Oregon Citizens' Alliance, the conservative, anti-abortion, Christian lobby group of which he is the head.

In May Mr Mabon and the alliance successfully lobbied to persuade the Oregon town of Springfield to adopt a measure rescinding equal rights legislation for homosexuals, making it the first town in America to contain anti-gay language in its municipal charter; there are clear signs that their campaign to bring into force similar, but more radical measures on a statewide level will also succeed.

"If the vote was tomorrow, we'd win by a landslide," Mr Mabon claims. His resemblance to David Duke, the former Ku Klux Klan member who made an unsuccessful bid for office in Louisiana, is no reason why it should be supported by the state.

Civil rights campaigners, women's groups and liberal opponents of the measure say, however, that it could be used to prevent public demonstrations by gay groups. Both men have carved out

substantial constituencies (115,000 Oregonians signed the alliance petition to put Measure 9 on the November ballot) by appealing to what their critics say are voters' baser instincts: the views of both men have prompted threats of boycotts by out-of-state businesses. Both enjoyed considerable popularity despite the condemnation of almost every public body.

Mr Mabon is not running

for office yet, and argues that Measure 9 is no more than an attempt to prevent homosexuals receiving special treatment.

Homosexuality is abnormal, unnatural and wrong," he says. "Discrimination against gays is not the same as racial or sexual discrimination. Homosexuality is an immoral choice made by individuals and there is no reason why it should be supported by the state."

Civil rights campaigners,

women's groups and liberal opponents of the measure say, however, that it could be used to prevent public demonstrations by gay groups. Both men have carved out

NEWS IN BRIEF

Georgian bastion captured

MOSCOW: Rebel forces captured the Georgian government stronghold of Gagra in the breakaway region of Abkhazia yesterday, the government press office said. Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, suspended a meeting of the ruling State Council and set off for the front line.

Local journalists quoted the State Council press office as saying that Abkhazian fighters had captured Gagra, the main town of northern Abkhazia, after almost 24 hours of fierce fighting. Earlier, government forces bombed Abkhazian gunmen and allied tribesmen from southern Russia outside Gagra, using planes for the first time in the six-week conflict. (Reuters)

Nato corps launched

BIELEFELD: Nato yesterday launched its flagship for the future, the 12-nation Rapid Reaction corps (Michael Evans writes). Manfred Wörner, the Nato secretary-general, described the new force as the centrepiece of the alliance's changed military posture, capable of confronting every kind of security threat.

He predicted that parts of the corps could be used in peacekeeping operations under the mandate of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe outside Nato territory.

Kept at home

MOSCOW: Russia has banned the former Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, from leaving the country until he appears at a court hearing on the fate of the banned Communist party, of which he was once the general secretary. Tass reported. (Reuters)

Rome riots

ROME: Police fought running battles with left-wing militants in the streets of Rome as strikes over the government's austere economic policy, including heavy spending cuts, crippled Italy's public services. (Reuters)

President leads

LISBON: President dos Santos had about 60 per cent of the vote on the second day of counting in Angola's first general election. Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader, with 35 per cent, is thought likely to make up ground.

Tokyo attack

TOKYO: Rockets were fired at the home here of Sohei Miyashita, the Japanese defence minister. Security for government figures and installations was intensified. Mr Miyashita and his family were not injured. (Reuters)

Tamil toll

COLOMBO: Intense fighting between Sri Lankan security forces and Tamil separatists has left dead 71 military personnel, more than 100 guerrillas and 15 civilians in the past ten days in the Northern and Eastern provinces of the island.

Villagers killed

BUTI: Kurdish rebels massacred most of the inhabitants of the remote Turkish village of Cevizdah and only three elderly men escaped unharmed, officials said. The toll rose to 55 as many of the wounded died in hospital. (Reuters)

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NEWS REVIEW

Norman's conquest.

The first exclusive extracts from Schwarzkopf's autobiography. His many political and military battles. Starting this Sunday.

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Clifford Longley

Theories of punishment rarely fit the crime

Public policy on the punishment of criminals is in a muddle, as the new Lord Chief Justice, Lord Taylor, has pointedly remarked. The muddle lies behind the ambiguities of the Criminal Justice Act which came into force this week. Confusion in this area is hardly surprising. No society demolishes and rebuilds its criminal justice system afresh each generation: it inherits the one already existing and tinkers with it. Such a system becomes a conglomeration of past and present ideas, not all of which are apparent or consistent. So the roots of present-day penal policy lie in centuries of theorising about crime, sin, punishment and suffering. A government which changes the system for the purely pragmatic reason that keeping people in prison is expensive, which is more or less what inspired the new act, is walking across very thin ice.

The cause and cure of crime and sin is a venerable issue, nowadays usually encountered in a religious context. Is suffering good for the soul? Is revenge just or unjust? Can a good action redeem an evil one? Is there free will? Most of the answers in the past, if not today, have been drawn from various versions of Christianity. Even a secular society cannot ignore the origins of its penal code, least of all when it is trying to amend that code in a way that makes sense.

Most people feel as metaphysical about punishment today as they did in the Middle Ages. They feel, for example, that by his crime a criminal has disturbed the moral order of the universe, and must be made to restore the equilibrium by some sort of payment. He owes a debt. This is rather stronger than a mere metaphor. Many believe that that debt can sometimes only be paid with the criminal's life. This notion of an intrinsic moral debt seems to imply that human affairs have a presiding book-keeper, a supernatural referee like the recording angel of mythology.

The medieval penitential codes set out precise penances for each wrong, just as modern magistrates' courts have tariffs for motoring offences, and there was a corresponding list of virtuous actions which earned remission of time spent in purgatory. While modern churchmen shun such notions embarrassingly primitive, the penal system still profoundly believes in them.

This is recognisably Catholic penitential territory, with 100 hours of community service as the modern equivalent to medieval public penance, and a £50 fine standing in for three Hail Marys. There is still fault, too, in the morally purifying effect of suffering, as in the doctrine of purgatory. Hence the logic of punishing a criminal is twofold. In the first place a criminal must suffer to avenge the suffering he inflicted on his victim, matching tear for tear; in the second, the suffering will make him a better person, as if manacles on his wrists will free him from the shackles of spiritual pride and so make him less likely to offend again.

The Puritan ethic of punishment did not so much replace the Catholic one as overlay it. It was no longer suffering as such — fasting and penance and so on — which remedied crime, as a regime which was devoid of pleasure but full of industry. These were judged the conditions most likely to lead to repentance and faith, hence to salvation. A place of punishment was to be frugal, clean and busy: the bread-and-water with hard labour which characterised the regime of the Victorian penal system. Neither of these religious ideas of redemption made the mistake of treating the criminal as sub-human. It was his potential for salvation which protected the prisoner's dignity.

But no longer does the prison system feel it has any official business with the state of men's souls. Modern prisons have corrupted the old religious wisdom by equating suffering with degradation, as if the peculiar anguish of a prisoner stripped of his identity, individuality and control over his own life is the only suffering that counts towards his salvation. On the contrary, that is the kind least likely to rehabilitate. Somebody who has been systematically treated as sub-human is likely to treat others that way. It is not surprising that modern prisons are often said to breed criminality. They have lost sight of the potential that suffering was once thought to have, for spiritual and moral purification. For suffering to do any good, there has also to be hope. In place of both, the modern prison system has put what the French mystic Simone Weil called affliction, an utterly negative experience akin to despair.

Simon Jenkins on his addiction to a radio channel broadcasting a concentrated diet of musical greats

Now DON'T any of you tell me," bellowed the disc-jockey like a regimental sergeant major, "don't you tell me I didn't ENJOY that?" That, I believe, was a fragment from Schubert's Rosamunde. "GREAT," he continued, "is the only word for THAT or I'm not an Irishman!" He then discussed a horse that was "dead cert" for the 2.30 at Cheltenham.

This is Classic-FM, the new culture with a vengeance. It is, I am told, already an addiction for many listeners and one I have to confess to sharing. I cannot yet kick the habit. For the past month the station has simply downloaded into the ether Robin Ray's "50,000 top classics", just about every piece of serious music with even a tickle of familiarity to it. Overlaying it is a constant banter of disc jockeys.

Not for these breezy presenters Radio Three's stern tradition of the intolerant in pursuit of the inaudible. Beethoven's Fifth ("fantastic") splashes into Han-

del's ("terrific") Water Music, emerges into the *Trovatore* anvil chorus ("wow!"), and on to Bruch's "masterful" violin concerto. Announcers are often majestically all at sea. "That was the great Arturo Toscanini with Lazar Helfetz," declared one... members presumably of the feared "Fingers" Paganini.

Every piece is "the world's most beautiful music", brought to us not by St Cecilia or the celestial muses but by *Time Magazine*, which shares with the gods of Classic-FM a status as "the world's greatest". Yet no sooner am I screaming and returning to Radio Three than along comes another old friend from whom I had not heard for years. I had forgotten just how good was Strauss's Emperor

waltz. For years I have avoided the mad scene from *Lucia*, on which I was once sated, as I have avoided such old troopers as Beethoven's *Pastoral*, Handel's *Largo*, Chopin's nocturnes, Cherubini's *Espana*, Stravinsky's *Pernambuco*.

All were firmly fixed in a Bermuda triangle, justly popular works from which I averted my ear for fear of familiarity turning them to saccharine. Now they are all returning, bombarding me with the ghosts of loves past. Here is the "really very talented Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart" with his little night music and over here the "very, very great Vladimir Horowitz" with "one of the best", Chopin.

We have grown so used to the Radio Three dame school and its rejection of Beecham's pica that

music penetrate the ear with facility and quit the memory with difficulty. Our hides are scarred by William Glock's knuckle sandwich, two lesser-known works by a familiar composer wrapped round a first-broadcast performance by an unknown.

We sat through interminable interviews with arts administrators moaning about their funding crisis as if it was acne. The BBC saw the Radio Three audience as a middle-aged couple sitting Horlicks in hand, cat on lap, waiting patiently for the next overture-concerto-symphony concert as if they had nothing else to do. When the wavelenght's new controller, Nicholas Kenyon, recently discovered that some listeners tuned in on the move and wanted more accessible music, he quite

traumatised his staff. Let the Sienna-driving Tchaikovsky nuts buy cassettes, they said. The licence fee was not for enjoyment but for improving the soul.

Fidelio's prisoners are now released into light. This is not cultural evolution but revolution. Classic-FM is relentless. Even with intermittent listening, I must have heard Vivaldi's *Spring* and Don Giovanni's champagne aria half a dozen times last week and Alfredo's *Un di felice* almost daily. Even the richest fare can lead to indigestion. Familiarity can breed if not contempt at least a bad attack of "*Nessun dorma*" syndrome.

Radio Three has already hit back with a devastating barrage of lesser-known works by famous composers at "drive-time" and a fusillade of funding

Species was published nine years later). The view of life that it presents holds out no rational hope for the individual:

Are God and Nature then at strife?
That Nature lends such evil dreams?

So careful of the type she seems,

So careless of the single life.
But then, almost immediately, Tennyson acknowledges that even types are scarcely less evanescent than individual beings:

'So careful of the type' but no.
From scorched cliff and quarried stone

She cries, 'A thousand types are gone;

I care for nothing, all shall go.'

Man, or at any rate Christian Man ... trusted God was love indeed

And love Creation's final law

— Tho' Nature, red in tooth and claw

With ravine, shrieked against his creed.

Ye ultimately, against all the odds, *In Memoriam* is a Christian poem, though the Christianity it proclaims is evolutionary, not transcendental. The well-known canto beginning "Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky", ends with the significant line "Ring in the Christ that is to be". And the poem itself ends by looking forward to "one far-off divine event", to which the whole creation moves". Note "the whole creation": not just the human race. (Incidentally none of the lines or verses quoted here appears in the *New Oxford Book of English Verse*.)

Verlaine told W.B. Yeats that he had tried to translate *In Memoriam*, but had found the task impossible, because Tennyson was "too noble" and "too English", and because he took refuge in reminiscences "when he should have been broken-hearted". Certainly he was thoroughly English, and Anglican, in his unwillingness to accept logical conclusions. His faith may be as wild as the bells and the sky, but it faces the known realities and is capable of working with the grain of science.



Honoured but unread: *In Memoriam*, a sensation in 1850, is omitted from anthologies

published, and never allowed his name to appear on the title page of any of its numerous editions. Yet from the first his authorship was an open secret.

Technically, the poem is an astonishing *tour de force*. Though he sometimes claimed to have invented the form in

which it is written (short quatrains on the ABBA pattern), there were, in fact, precedents in the work of Lord Herbert of Cherbury and others. But never before had it been used for such a variety of purposes, ranging from the most exquisite lyricism to discussion of the human

predicament. Any fool can write passable heroic couplets, but one has only to try to write in the *In Memoriam* form to realise how difficult it is. Tennyson makes it seem easy.

The poem reflects a pre-Darwinian awareness of the theory of evolution. (*The Origin of the*



...and moreover PHILIP HOWARD

Economics has become the modern queen of the sciences, in the way that theology was in the Dark Ages. As medieval theologians managed to combine maximum certainty of correctness with minimum agreement on the truth, so modern economists are brilliant at explaining why something should not happen before it does happen, and then after it has happened, wonderful explanation of why it should have happened. If all the economists were laid end to end in a letter to *The Times*, they would never come to an agreement in plain English — and it would not be a pretty sight.

Their problem is that, like the theologians, they pretend to be engaged in science, when in fact they are playing at mumbo jumbo, or at any rate one of the woollier humanities. The state of all economics is evidence of the unscientific nature of the bogus hocus pocus of economics. Here are some plain man's "parameters" of their latest jargon.

Fault-line as alleged by some to need repairing in the European Exchange Rate Mechanism. This metaphor is from geology. It means a dislocation in continuity of the strata. A fault-line is stronger than the normal strata, not more frangible, and cannot be repaired.

Variable geometry: an aeronautical metaphor. To engineers it means a configuration of component parts that can be varied. The wing surface of a bat's wing, an elastic membrane of skin stretched between the

four long fingers, with at least 11 moveable joints in each wing, is an example of variable geometry.

Chaos theory: a technical term of physics and mathematics. There are phenomena for which it is impossible to predict how the situation is going to develop when the starting conditions change only very slightly. For example, the uncertainty in spinning a coin, or the development of turbulence in a fast-flowing fluid.

Pace: pretentious and smart-arse journalists, chaos theory does not mean that a butterfly fluttering its wings in Peru can change the weather over London. Chaos theory is a convenient excuse for why the economists have got things wrong again, as usual. It is quite a good description of the activity of economics itself.

ERM and EMU: Erm is the common Teutonic and old English adjective meaning poor and needy, miserable and wretched. The Erm is a large, flightless Australian bird, having exposed blue skin on its neck and long brown-grey feathers on its back.

The acronyms are jujus around which economists' dance, producing a hollow drumming sort of note, much like the emu, but more discordant. The blandest new definition of the ERM is "a fixed but floating, crawling peg system". Aquatic shove-halfpenny?

Quack doctors and teenage scribblers: terms of abuse by one of the squabbling "schools" of

economists for another. The Treasury and Berlaymont are rude words of the other side.

Maastricht: a pretty frontier town in a loop of the Maas (Meuse), notorious for savage battles during the rise of the Dutch Republic and the second world war, and for economic gobbedeok today. Economists cannot even agree on how to pronounce the town.

Deflation: a forbidden word. Economists prefer to call it realignment, disinflation, readjustment, or a little local difficulty. Money is not everything. But usually, in deflation, there is not enough of it. This taboo word is incorrectly formed. It should be deflation. You do not "late" a bicycle tire. Mistrust any school that is so careless of English.

Inflation: another fashionable bugaboo word. Its avoidance at all costs can become an obsession for conviction (ie simple-minded) politicians. The principle trouble about inflation is that the public like it.

Euro-sceptic: a xenophobic and populist Little Englander. (A Eurosceptic is a snobbish oligarch. A Eurocrat is a bureaucrat with knobs on.)

Economist: a nerd who would marry Samantha Fox for her enormous bank balances and dividends, and then find out that she hasn't got any.

Economics: the art of telling other people how to spend their money without getting any fun out of it, and getting it wrong more often than can be excused even by chaos theory in its economic sense.

Smith's model man of Europe

THE prime minister is not the only party leader whose Maastricht headache just will not go away. John Smith is concerned that Bryan Gould could be about to be replaced in the Shadow Cabinet by another Euro-sceptic. The runner-up in last July's elections was Ron Davies, the Welsh MP who displays a distinct lack of fervour on European issues. With Gould claiming that there are already at least half a dozen other Eurosceptics in the Shadow Cabinet, the last thing Smith wants is for their hand to be reinforced.

Smith's favoured candidate is George Robertson, the party's spokesman on Europe, and another trusted member of the Scottish mafia. He is known in some circles as "Labour's own Tristan Carel-Jones", a reference to the Euro-fanatic minister who has become the *bête noir* of the Tory right.

The problem for Smith is that Robertson finished well down the field in the shadow cabinet election this summer. Under the old rules Davies, the party's agriculture spokesman, would have automatically taken Gould's place. Fortunately for Smith those rules were changed after Michael Foot was appalled to find that when Bill Rodgers resigned in 1980 it elevated Tony Benn to the shadow cabinet.

But party strategists are this weekend examining further changes to the voting system for the rules do not appear to specify how the ballot should be conducted. A first-past-the-post contest would give Davies his best chance. Smith is keen to run the ballot on an exhaustive basis, which, coinciden-



DIARY

tally, would give Robertson the best chance of succeeding.

Just in case the leader had any doubt about Robertson's commitment to the European ideal, the MP spent all week in Blackpool sporting the Cross of the Federal German Order of Merit — awarded a couple of years ago for his work in promoting Anglo-German relations.

• Whatever Alan B's thoughts of Maastricht, rumour has it that Rik Mayall's fictitious MP is going into Europe. La Cicciolina, the Italian politician-cut-porn star, and Alessandra Mussolini, niece of Benito, are said to have lined up to take on the beastly Tony B's seat in the next series of the New Statesman. Surely it cannot be long before John Major offers him a Cabinet post?

Falling standards

SOMEONE else is doing well out of the sterling crisis. To the annoyance of patriotic travellers, the British Airports Authority has put up posters at all the major airports in southern Britain declaring: "The pound is falling!" It is followed by an exhortation to spend US dollars in the airports' duty free.

BAA says the posters are merely "a public service". But the gleeful tone has enraged the patriotic wing of the Tory Party. John Carlisle,

MP for Luton North, which includes the local airport, is furious. "The answer to the sterling crisis is to stay at home and not to fly abroad. BAA is trying to turn the crisis to economic advantage. I am a BAA shareholder and I have always been happy with their performance. But I think the patriotic thing to do now is to sell the shares and buy Rover."

Middle Eastern son

A POWERFUL foreign office dynasty is being perpetuated by the announcement, expected shortly, of our new man in Saudi Arabia. Douglas Hurd has chosen David Gore-Booth, whose father was the first head of the combined foreign and commonwealth office. Widely regarded as one of the brightest high-flyers at the FCO, Gore-Booth, 49, played a key role in the restoration of diplomatic relations with Syria in 1990. Earlier this year he upset the pro-Israel lobby when private remarks, which he made at a meeting of the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding, were leaked.

Gore-Booth's appointment to Riyadh comes as the Saudi kingdom is celebrating the 60th anniversary of its birth under the baffling slogan "Progress without change". Gore-Booth will no doubt soon be asked to explain it to us.

Lord of the manna

TIMES are so hard in these days of recession that even Britain's feudal landlords are being forced to rely on their tenants for sustenance. Sir Charles Wolseley, the eleventh baronet, facing debts of £4 million at the Wolseley estate, a gift from King Edgar in 975, has been forced to accept free potatoes from one tenant, Jeannie Brown, his American wife, who says she relies on

friends in London to provide her with second-hand clothes to keep her presentable. "I never thought I'd be living like this when I married Charles," she says. "But you marry someone for richer or poorer and I'd be happy to live in a cardboard box if it was with my husband."

All we need now is
a few loaves
and fishes.



Sir Charles, 48, blames his decline on the recession and a £1.7 million investment in a garden park near his estate. Yet matters could be worse. With their free potatoes the couple are still able to dine on trout and pheasant culled from their 1,300-acre estate.

• Nowhere will they be celebrating the centenary of Tennyson's death over the coming week more enthusiastically than in Skegness. The poet was born just 14 miles from the town and "The Tennyson Experience" this weekend will feature pilgrimages, readings and a lunchtime toast tomorrow proposed by Hallam Tennyson, the poet's great grandson. Local hoteliers are offering Tennysonian rooms overlooking the sea. And what is specially Tennysonian about it? These are the waves which inspired "Break, break, break", they boast proudly.



AND ALL THAT

"NB There will be very few dates in this History", wrote Jane Austen in her *History of England*, published in 1791. To leave out chronological detail is the privilege of the lady novelist; whether it should also be the privilege of the history teacher is a controversy into which the prime minister, to his great credit, has now plunged.

In a letter published yesterday, Mr Major gave a discreet warning to schools that he will no longer tolerate the "insidious attack on history" and "challenges to the traditional core of this crucial subject". The *ancien régime* of kings, queens, dates and facts may soon be restored.

After a disastrous fortnight, Mr Major has scored a hit, albeit one tucked away in a letter to a retired union chief. Most startling is his open endorsement of the work of Christopher McGovern and Anthony Freeman, two history teachers who lost their jobs at Lewes Priory School in Sussex after criticising the GCSE syllabus in 1987. The education establishment has long dismissed these vocal defenders of traditional teaching as cranks, and Dr Freeman was even yesterday trying to convince a tribunal to save his job as a supply teacher. Number Ten's unqualified support of the "Lewes Two" ought to send a shiver down the collective spine of the teaching profession.

Mr Major's long-running correspondence with Fred Jarvis, former general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, has been an intriguing commentary on his government's educational vision. Politically, it has confirmed suspicions that Downing Street, rather than the education department, is calling the more thunderous shots. A review of the history syllabus would be the most thunderous to date; it would also be the most politically contentious.

The prime minister wades boldly into a fierce intellectual controversy that has only simmered since 1989, when the national curriculum working party delivered its findings. The syllabus was intended to strike a balance between the old-fashioned history

of Trevelyan, Eton and Namier, with its emphasis on chronology, high politics, dynasties and nationhood, and the so-called "new history", which leans towards discussion of ethnicity, class, and the dispossessed. Common-room feuds were to be laid to rest in this exercise in scholarly truimphantism.

Balance there should be, but that balance has yet to be achieved. Traditionalists have argued with justice that the history curriculum, particularly at GCSE level, is still bedevilled by wooliness, a pathological fear of pupil failure, and creeping political correctness. One of Mr McGovern's sins was to enter a group of bright 10-year-olds for a GCSE in social and economic history which most of them found undemanding. A glance at many GCSE papers reveals a sorry *pot pourri* of questions asking pupils to write about a picture or to "empathise" with the problems of historical figures. True empathy demands deep understanding — the result of serious study, not normally the route to it.

Renewed rigour and a more sparing use of non-literary sources would be a first reform. But the redefinition of history in schools must also ask what the subject is for, and what a child whose compulsory study of the past ends at 14 is entitled to expect. For too long, the teaching of history has been underpinned by a dim Whiggish or Marxist faith in historic inevitability. In the classroom, this lofty orthodoxy has translated absurdly into a diluted form of social engineering: peasant costumes, pretty pictures and a ban on kings and queens.

Mr Major's ambitions should be more modest and more focused: a history syllabus which prepares the young citizen for life in a rich and complex culture. This does not mean moral instruction. It does mean facts, dates, major personalities and the study of national identity, the tools without which any historical analysis is a waste of time. The prime minister may be having trouble writing his own chapters of history — but his interest in the protection of the past may yet gild this government's troubled present.

A GRAIL TOO FAR

While the government works out a new economic policy, time does not wait in business. Over the past two weeks, there has been an alarming upsurge of redundancies and closures spread widely around industry and commerce. The announced total of about 15,000 ranges from advanced engineering to the high street. There are many different individual causes, but the overwhelming message from industry has been that companies that had hoped to last out the recession without cutting capacity severely cannot hold on any longer.

When recovery does come, some industries and services should be able to bounce back. Many will not be able to supply a swift upturn in demand from home production. Industrialists who have seen recovery on the horizon two or three times already, have finally been forced to plan for a continuing low level of demand in order to survive in an economy locked into high interest and exchange rates. Having been disappointed before, they must take the economy as it is, not as it ought to be.

Even before this year's bonfire of industrial capacity, manufacturing employment had fallen to 28 per cent of the workforce in Britain, compared to 39 per cent in Germany and 34 per cent in Japan. The final loss of output may be comparable with the shake-out of 1980-1, which took place in the more positive context of an upsurge of North Sea oil production and the overdue reform of uncompetitive practices and declining industries.

As ministers rethink economic policy, they should put the needs of industry first. Businessmen backed entry into the ERM and the drive against inflation because they thought they might find the businessman's grail of stability and predictable economic weather. Instead, the policy focused on

prices and exchange rates, while most other economic variables went haywire. Natural cycles and storms will always afflict the international economy. Stability cannot be measured by one variable alone. Flexible economic management must aim to provide the most stable combination of interest and exchange rates, prices, taxes and demand growth available. That is the main aid any government can give to business, and is as much the concern of the trade ministers as of the Treasury.

Other government policies should, however, also be bent to the same end. This week, the foreign secretary conceded that the timing of Britain's return to monetary co-operation in the European Community should be determined by economic, rather than foreign policy goals. That is a relief. Another important source of relief would come if promoting the interest of British distillers, steelmakers, vehicle manufacturers and securities houses had as high a priority as sorting out a common EC foreign policy.

Domestically, industry needs support rather than interference. That does not mean the Treasury should succumb to every demand for privilege, tax concessions or grants. Rather, it should consider, for example, the weight given to measures designed to increase domestic competition. These have had damaging side-effects encouraging imports of goods from fertilisers to telecommunications equipment, and turning the gas, electricity and brewing industries upside down. That kind of interference can be just as suffocating as Labour's old anemia at dirigisme.

Ministers have endlessly told the public that only industry can produce the wealth to strengthen public services at home and British influence abroad. The lesson has not yet been absorbed in Whitehall.

MORAL DISTINCTION FUDGED

Harsh words have been exchanged between London and Bonn lately, whether about sterling's exit from the ERM and the role of the Bundesbank, or about Maastricht and the spectre of a two-speed Europe. On the German side, "explanations" have been demanded and a secret memorandum leaked; accusations and apologies by the British have succeeded one another with bewildering rapidity. Mutual trust may indeed have been damaged by these skirmishes; yet there are times when plain speaking between friends can help to clear the air. The British government has not been frank in communicating on the row over today's celebrations at Peenemünde, the anniversary of the V2 rocket. Here, for once, harsh words should have been used.

Once the strength of public revulsion against the commemoration in this country had become apparent, the German government withdrew its support. State secretary Erich Riedl, who had called the event a "celebration of Germany's contribution to space travel", was refused permission to speak at Peenemünde. But Hitler's "vengeance weapons" are apparently seen by members of the Kohl government as morally equivalent to the Allied bombing offensive. In reprimanding his subordinate, Herr Jürgen Möller, the German economics minister, declared that the V2 ceremony was just as tasteless as the erection of a statue to Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris in the Strand, an event that was attended by the Queen Mother. An equivocating self-exculpatory doctrine seems to underlie this statement, echoed by the German media.

Within hours of Herr Möller's remarks last Monday, the British foreign

secretary was saying much the same thing on American television. Under the mistaken impression that the V2 ceremony had been cancelled, Mr Hurd drew precisely the same parallel with the Harris statue, adding that "to some people in either country [such events] arouse feelings and people have to be sensitive to those feelings". His calculated imprecision glossed over the real issue: the moral distinction between the two causes for which Bomber Harris and Werner von Braun, inventor of the V2, were fighting.

The defeat of Hitler could not have been accomplished without the dedication and self-sacrifice of the airmen who died over Germany. Strategic bombing may have been a mistake; but against an atrocious enemy who was otherwise invulnerable, it was a justifiable one. The murderous brilliance of the Nazi war machine, of which the V2 was the supreme example, derived from a readiness by scientists to suspend their scruples in return for resources (including slave labour) which enabled them to achieve their Faustian ambitions. The rocket is a symbol of their corruption. A V2 destroyed Smithfield market with the loss of 110 lives in March 1945, a few weeks before the inevitable end. The war was not over until Hitler lay dead in his bunker, his ideas discredited by the terrible price Germans had been forced to pay for following him.

Plenty of Germans are ashamed of the V2 affair. Rightly, the foreign secretary does not wish to intrude on private grief. But the lesson of Peenemünde is that blurring moral distinctions for the sake of friendly relations is bound to give succour to that minority of Germans who, even now, are summoning up evil spirits from the dead.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 071-782 5000

Bouquets and brickbats for new Criminal Justice Act

From His Honour Judge Tucker, QC

Sir, Your helpful leader of September 30 on the new Criminal Justice Act contains an error on an important factual matter. "Hitherto", you state, "if a judge thought a prisoner deserved at least one year behind bars, he had to sentence him to three years." This is not the case. Up to (and including) today, if a judge considers that the justice of the case requires a man to be imprisoned for one year, it is his duty to sentence him to that term.

Many authorities have emphasised that the sentencing judge should not take into account the probable effect of remission or the possible effect of parole. Twelve months, therefore, it would be, even if the offender is to be released by the Executive in four months (or less if he has been in custody before trial).

From tomorrow the judge will have to go through the following mental process: "You deserve 12 months but 12 months under the old law would mean you may have expected to be out in four and under the new law you will not be out before six. So I must achieve the same result in order to be fair and sensible to you eight."

The word "fair" above can be taken either to mean fair to the accused — to stop him serving an extra two months — or fair to the Executive — to stop them having to keep him an extra two months. The observer can take his pick, and the sentence passed will reflect neither the time actually served nor the nominal time which ought to be served for what the offence deserves.

Either way, it may perhaps be understood why some of those who are being asked to have to try to apply the new act are less than wildly enthusiastic at the prospect.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN TUCKER,
Winchester Combined Court Centre,
The Law Courts,
Winchester, Hampshire.
September 30.

From Sir Frederick Lawton

Sir, You report (September 30) that the Lord Chief Justice has misgivings about the provision in the Criminal Justice Act 1991 (section 29) relating to the effect of previous convictions. So have many others.

Perhaps these misgivings can be dispelled if that section is construed, as in my opinion it can be, as doing no more than putting into ambiguous words the effect of observations which were made many times in the Court of Appeal during the 15 years I was a member of it about the way judges should treat previous convictions. Unfortunately, to the best of my recollection, they were never recorded in the Law Report.

Trial judges were advised that they should assess, as the facts proved, the seriousness of the offence charged. Previous convictions did not make it

Hatfield's prospects

From Councillor Patrick Barnes

Sir, Walter Ellis writes (article, September 24): "Hatfield today will be reading its own obituaries." I am writing to the contrary.

On the morrow and about tomorrow. Of course all of us who are associated with the town regret the closure of the British Aerospace plant but Welwyn Hatfield Council is already planning the renewal of the town.

We have in place a £1 million package of measures to deal with the short-term consequences of the closure, focusing on practical ways to assist people with training and to find new jobs.

The Hertfordshire Development Organisation has the task of attracting new firms to this area and encouraging the development of existing firms within the county. Since the British

Aerospace closure was announced my council has passed on enquiries from firms interested in coming to Hatfield which, if they come to fruition, would mean the replacement of over half the jobs lost.

There are more than 1.5 million square feet of office and industrial space available in Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield. There are people here with the skills and the capacity to work hard who would be a credit to new companies. My council would welcome them and we will be working closely with British Aerospace to bring new life to its Hatfield site in the shortest possible time.

Yours faithfully,

PATRICK BARNES (Leader),
Welwyn Hatfield Council,
Council Offices,
Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire.
September 25.

Following the V2 trail

From Squadron Leader H. J. Grantham, RAF (ret'd)

Sir, The forthcoming "celebration" of the 50th anniversary of the V2 rocket (report, September 30) makes me recall my time in a German concentration camp, when I and others were made to fill rocket casings.

I served in the RAF throughout the war and was sent into Germany after the fall of France to help sympathetic scientists get back to Britain. In the winter of 1942 I was caught and, not being in uniform, was sent to Dachau.

After about two weeks a number of us inmates were rounded up into trucks and driven back and forth to Jena, to an underground factory in a mountainside. The rocket sections stood about 30ft high and with other prisoners my job was to pack the outer casing with glass-fibre granules, standing on scaffolding towers, shovelling and pushing the material in. On one occasion I fell into the casing but was hauled out just in time to avoid suffocation.

I did this for about five months, but was lucky enough to escape from Dachau and with the help of the underground network I managed to get back to Britain, a journey which took about four months.

I shall be celebrating my 90th birthday in December.

Yours faithfully,
H. J. GRANTHAM,
17 Red House Lane,
Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol, Avon.
September 30.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

071-782 5046.

Doubts about coal industry's future

From Mr Gerry Plant

Sir, With the imminent privatisation of British Coal, we in the already private sector of the industry have grave reservations about the future of the industry as a whole. Dependence on imported coal for generators would adversely affect Britain's balance of trade and oblige the generating companies to accept any price rises imposed by the current suppliers of cheap coal from Eastern Europe and the Third World.

British Coal's 1991-2 report shows a healthy increase in overall profits, but it is operating from an advantageous position of a government-owned industry, which may be expected to change.

As the law stands a private mine can employ only 150 men underground, but that number could not sustain a British Coal deep mine with its massive static costs. Such unequal treatment of producers cannot be expected to continue.

British Coal will also lose the royalties that it collects from every coal producer (drift mines and opencast) in the country, which totalled £14 million in 1991, and will itself probably have to pay royalties after privatisation.

It does not have to pay insurance premiums for employers' liability to its 58,000 employees, which we in the private sector pay at 10 per cent of the employee's earnings.

Moreover, the price paid by the newly-privatised generating companies for the new supply contract to come into effect next March will probably be greatly reduced. In a recent letter to all private suppliers National Power has indicated a price that could be met by a dozen of British Coal's deep mines at most.

Against this black picture, the National Union of Mineworkers, which still represents 80 per cent of the workforce, is demanding a four-day week, better conditions and massive increases in wages.

We in the private sector may catch a cold with the changes, but British Coal is likely to contract pneumonia.

Yours sincerely,
GERRY PLANT
Junior Vice-President, Federation of Small Mines of Great Britain.
The Mine Manager's House,
New Tredegar, Gwent.
October 1.

Pitchford Hall

From Lord Gibson

Sir, Somerset Herald (letter, September 30) asks whether it is appropriate for a government minister to overrule a scheme put forward by English Heritage. The ex-heritage secretary was reported as having done so on the ground that the scheme would prejudice English Heritage's other commitments.

The object in establishing "quangos" such as English Heritage and the Arts Council was to create bodies with specialist experience which could determine priorities in distributing public funds allocated to them. Intervention such as the ex-minister's in the case of Pitchford or any other ministerial direction in matters intended by Parliament to be left to the "quango" concerned will, if repeated, leave such bodies with little more than an advisory function.

I hope the new heritage secretary will respect the spirit of Parliament's intention and take a broader view of the need for him to overrule the judgment of the "quangos" responsible to him.

Yours faithfully,
GIBSON,
House of Lords.
September 30.

Future of Radio 4

From Mr Christopher Shaw

Sir, Our association greatly regrets the threat (report, September 29) which seems to be hanging over the future of Radio 4 long wave — the only reliable way of receiving the station on the Continent.

Radio 4 is one of the best ways of getting the British voice heard over here. Rare are the expatriates in Belgium who do not listen in regularly. As important, there is a vast audience of non-British who also listen in regularly. Its cultural and, not least, political and economic influence is invaluable. Why gag this voice, especially when there would seem to be no obvious advantage in doing so?

Is a deafening silence really the best message Great Britain can broadcast to its friends and potential friends?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER SHAW
(Chairman),
British Conservative Association
in Belgium,
Boulevard Charlemagne 35,
B-1040 Brussels.

From Mrs Eve Gardner

Sir, In your report today regarding the BBC's decision concerning the broadcasting of Radio 4 programmes on FM only, their spokeswoman, Sandra Chalmers, is reported as saying, on being told that European listeners could not pick up FM, "They don't pay a licence fee."

Perhaps it is time she was reminded of the motto of the British Broadcasting Corporation — "Nation shall speak peace unto nation."

Yours faithfully,
EVE GARDNER,
Chestnut House, 8 Mill Road,
Eastbourne, East Sussex.
September 29.

Illustrated answer

From Mr S. W. Thompson

Sir, How thoughtful it was of *The Times* today (September 30) to give me a start in my attempt at the crossword by providing the answer to 13 across ("Painting by Millais, a work he had trouble circulating") (?) with the picture of his "Ophelia" on page 5 of *Life & Times*.

Yours faithfully,

OBITUARIES

ANTONY TERRY

Antony Terry, MC, former investigative journalist on *The Sunday Times*, died at his home in Wellington, New Zealand, yesterday aged 79. He was born in London on May 18, 1913.

AT THE height of his distinguished career, Antony Frédéric Aimé Imbert Terry was a unique investigator of many chilling aspects of the Cold War in Europe, among them espionage and clandestine smuggling of East Germans to the West. He was well equipped for the task: ice-blue eyes, capable of making others flinch; impeccable German and French; a memory retentive of minuscule tenacity in pursuit of scoundrels; and an interrogatory style — brusque, incisive, relentless — that could make conspirators, conmen and communists jump through his hoops. Yet neither his friends nor his colleagues ever found him in his heart.

One of his most outstanding traits was in regarding himself (despite his remarkable specialisms) as a journalistic *garde mobile*, willing to undertake any assignment beyond his European "patch". He was often called upon to do so. His reports from Biafra graphically described the suffering there in 1970. At other times he was hunting down Nazi war criminals in the jungles of South America or probing suspicious circumstances of a colleague's murder in the Middle East.

Antony Terry was born in North London but spent much of his childhood and early youth in Berlin, where his father was attached to the British embassy between the wars. Ferociously strong for one so slightly built, he was until the final decade of his life, intensely self-reliant; a rather solitary, bespectacled figure who seldom spoke of his youthful years, preferred working alone (though he actually excelled at "team journalism" on those occasions demanding his participation), and quietly cultivated sources of information which constantly gave this unassuming,



Invariably dark-suited newspaperman a distinct edge over professional rivals. He had an awesomely comprehensive filing system, at first in Bonn and later in Paris, and he would often point out to younger colleagues that "reconnaissance is never wasted."

In his typically modest way he rarely talked of the Military Cross he was awarded for leading a diversionary commando raid against an Axis port in the second world war. Major Terry and his men drew German fire as they crossed an iron bridge, bullets ricocheting against its girders, and were captured. His team was actually

being lined up against a wall by German soldiers to be shot when saved by the distraction of another British team's limpet-mines going off under the battleship *Tirpitz* a short distance away. (The ship survived and was moved to Norway but was finally sunk by the Lancaster bombers of 617 "Dambusters" squadron in Trondheim Fjord in 1944). Major Terry was sent to a prisoner-of-war camp, where he immediately organised a clandestine news-sheet.

At the conclusion of the war his fluency in German dialects and familiarity with the German psyche

made him a formidable allied interrogator of suspected war criminals. Sometimes in jest, post-war journalists surmised that his expertise in obtaining answers to difficult questions from resolute subjects might be attributed to the skills he acquired from those official interrogations.

On joining *The Sunday Times* after the war, at the invitation of Ian Fleming, Terry became a tireless foreign correspondent. In 1956, though trapped for more than a week in the British legation in Budapest following the crushing of the Hun-

garian uprising, he was able to send despatches of horror — almost too terrible to describe. His intimate knowledge of German affairs and political movements was at least as great as the most sophisticated native commentators. He appeared regularly in televised discussions in Bonn long after being posted to Paris in 1972 as European editor of his newspaper.

But his professional zeal and frequent travelling took their toll on his home life, and his marriage to Sarah Gainham the novelist founded in the sixties. Later, in Paris, he formed a warm relationship with Edith Lenart, a journalist working for the Economist Intelligence Unit. More than anyone else, she was responsible for demolishing the stern reserve that some associates used to find so defective. Infused by her warmth, elegance and gaiety, he became an outgoing companion. They married in London in 1984.

Though formally retired as a staff correspondent he continued to be retained by *The Sunday Times*. From the villa he rented in the south of France he filed regular despatches, responding with typical acuity and thoroughness to the many demands editors made on his time. He also frequently entertained his old London-based colleagues at the villa which was situated in the hills above Nice.

Even when he moved to Wellington, New Zealand, five years ago, to be near his wife's daughter (by Mrs Terry's previous marriage), his newspaper still made grateful use of his extraordinary judgment, investigative skills, breadth of experience and unmatched contacts.

Antony Terry was among the last of a peculiarly gallant and fashions breed of reporter: self-discriminated, self-motivated and, in a sense, creatively remote from head office. Former colleagues held him in swaddling; many of them in deep affection.

APPRECIATIONS

William Douglas Home

WILLIAM Douglas Home (obituary, September 30) was a rare spirit and your admirable and comprehensive obituary notice does justice to him. We had known each other on and off for some years, ever since a serious play of his ran at The Bolton Theatre, which I subsequently took over.

For several years before his death he had been attempting to launch together a play, *Retirement Age*, which was to be his last — and so far unproduced — comedy, a highly accomplished and very funny one indeed. Unfortunately, dealing as it did with the "retirement" from the government of Mrs Thatcher it presented too many problems for faint-hearted managers to take on board and with its futuristic glimpse of both



Thatcher's "at home", reconciling themselves to some sort of domestic existence, it proved as a two-character piece too strong to take despite its gorgeous comic characterisations, with much of the dialogue being carried off in the best William Douglas Home vein.

Completely undoctrinaire and a free spirit, this talented man of many parts was in our modern times what in our golden days was often called a *free thinker*, with all that such a description means in its most literal sense.

We had a lengthy correspondence also and to the end he was lamenting the fact that "the London theatre's fallen apart", urging me to try to get on with the revival of something good, even if it was old and not of his making. He concluded with the words "it was bound to fall apart just as all picture galleries would have closed if the New Wave artists had seen fit to turn all the old pictures to the walls."

Peter Cotes

Dr Richard Turner

DICK Turner (obituary, September 30) had roots in and around the downland village of Ditchling in Sussex stretching back many generations and it was to the family house there, *Cottagers*, that he returned to spend his retirement after his distinguished career as a cardiologist in Edinburgh.

A bequest from his cousin

Mrs Mary Dumbrell also gave him the ownership of the beauty spot and ancient Saxon barrow of Lodge Hill, together with some other farmland and barns, and he immediately set up the Turner-Dumbrell

Charitable Trust in order that the village should benefit from this Lodge Hill is now a fine walking area for the villagers and the barns have been converted into the Turner-Dumbrell Workshops to help start the careers of artists and craftsmen thus carrying on an old Ditchling tradition. The trust has also generously given support to Ditchling Museum, which has a Turner-Dumbrell Room, and to the church, the village green and other Ditchling activities.

Dick Turner was a great hearted man who contributed generously to the welfare of others during his medical career and in his retirement.

Mary Stewart-Wallace

His Honour A. E. Cox

DURING the last few years of his life Judge Cox (obituary, August 27) presided with some regularity as a judge at Middlesex Guildhall Crown Court, Westminster, where I often sat in his court. Those who worked there were always pleased to see him.

He never failed to impress with his modest, courteous and patient manner, and those who appeared before

him could always be certain of being treated with scrupulous fairness. His approach seemed neither sentimental nor harsh, but strewed and perceptive.

He was not known to complain of his physical infirmities. He seemed devoid of pomposity, but had an air of quiet authority which was sometimes combined with a dry sense of humour, whether on or off the bench.

Martin Page
Probation Officer

ON THIS DAY OCT 3 1929

"rationalisation" which was needed to repair the damage wrought by currency inflation and the large diminution of the volume of foreign loans, owing to unfavourable conditions on the New York money market.

The re-opening of the Reparations question and the protracted negotiations of the Experts Committee, the outcome of which so often trembled in the balance, also helped to retard the recovery of the German economy from the distinct depression which set in towards the end of 1928. Yet in the main the five years which have followed the introduction of the Dawes Plan in 1924 have been a period of notable progress.

The standard of living has steadily increased, in spite of the growing burden of Reparation payments. Savings bank deposits have risen by leaps and bounds, and the internal accumulation of capital, though still far from sufficient to supply the needs of a vast country which destroyed its floating capital by an unprecedented orgy of currency inflation, is making a slow but gratifying progress towards self-sufficiency. This remarkable achievement has been in a large measure due to the determined and skilful policy of rationalisation, which has been applied to every branch of German industry.

A large section of the report is devoted to an account by Mr Kavanagh of the 1928 and the first four months of the current year. Compared with the "boom" year of 1927, the period shows a marked slowing down of industrial activity. This was in large measure due to two principal factors — the completion of the process of re-equipping and

The annual report on which this leading article was based was compiled by two members of the British Embassy staff in Berlin, and illustrated the fluctuating state of the German economy in the closing months of the decade. The comparison with the state of British industry is not favourable.

GERMANY'S RECOVERY Yesterday amid general rejoicing all Germany celebrated the eighty-second birthday of President von Hindenburg, whose faithful performance of his high and arduous duties has rightly earned the admiration not only of his own people but also of the world at large.

The German nation has just cause to be thankful for his firm and impartial conduct of affairs, which by ensuring internal tranquillity has rendered possible an almost unexampled recovery after the disasters and afflictions of the post-War years.

How remarkable and complete that recovery has been admirably illustrated by the report on the Economic and Financial Conditions in Germany, just published by the Department of Overseas Trade, which is summarised by our Berlin Correspondent in two articles.

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GERMANY'S RECOVERY

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performance of his high and arduous duties has rightly earned the admiration not only of his own people but also of the world at large.

The German nation has just

cause to be thankful for his firm and impartial conduct of affairs, which by ensuring internal tranquillity has rendered possible an almost unexampled recovery after the disasters and afflictions of the post-War years.

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BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

WEEKEND MONEY

Profile

Relaxing does not come naturally to the director general of the Takeover Panel, Frances Heaton. She will only sit down if she has a drink in her hand, she never listens to music and will not sit in a room with a television. She is a rigorous maintainer of the status quo, determined, with high principles and an unforgiving streak..... Page 19



Pension choice

Many people at retirement face the decision of how to take their pension. Company pension schemes offer fixed or escalating income and a choice of how big the annual increase should be..... Page 23

Time to retire

The social security department is considering more than 4,000 responses to its paper on equalising state pensions. It has not ruled out a retirement age of 60 for men and women..... Page 25



Lease of life

Leasehold reform, which will allow leaseholders to club together to buy the freehold of their properties, is likely to lead to gains for owners of houses with shorter leases, predicts Yolande Barnes, head of residential research at Savills the estate agent. Previously shorter leases were less attractive as they pushed down a property's value and made it more difficult for prospective buyers to get mortgages. A bill with the reforms is due to be discussed in Parliament..... Page 24



Home comforts

Double glazing, fitted kitchens and replacement window frames top the list of Halifax building society customers' home improvements. But they yearn for conservatories and bathrooms..... Page 24



Unhappy returns

Savings rates have started to fall, cutting returns for the tenth time in two years. Millions of customers are getting even less than they could be because their money is in obsolete accounts..... Page 21

Britain's currency reserves fall by \$7.69bn

Bundesbank paid DM92bn to save ERM

BY WOLFGANG MENCHAD, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE Bundesbank's efforts to ensure the survival of Europe's exchange-rate mechanism cost DM92 billion in currency support operations last month.

Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, who has been at the centre of a furious Anglo-German diplomatic row this week, disclosed the scale of the support yesterday.

It was another attempt to refute British claims that Germany had acted selfishly during the weeks of currency turmoil. In the contentious document that caused the row, Dr Schlesinger disclosed that the cost of currency intervention for sterling and the franc to September 23 was DM44 billion.

Britain's official reserves have also fallen strongly, although less than had been anticipated by forecasters. The underlying level of reserves was down by \$7.69 billion in September, but the Bank of England cautioned against reading too much significance into these figures. Official reserve data are an unreliable guide to the true amounts spent on currency intervention, for largely technical reasons. The true cost to Britain of the fiddle battle to defend sterling in the run-up to "Black Wednesday" will turn out to be significantly higher. Estimates range from £10 billion to £20 billion. News of the

data came on a day when sterling was once again caught in the crosshairs of a shifting dollar-mark exchange rate.

The dollar strengthened considerably on news of better-than-expected US payroll data, obviating the need for yet another cut in US interest rates. Against the mark, sterling was down more than 5 pence to close at DM2.4332. Against the dollar, sterling fell more than 3 cents to \$1.7190. Compared with sterling's former central ERM rate of DM2.95, the British currency has now been deviated by 21.4 per cent.

Britain's official reserves at the end of September were \$42.67 billion in cash terms, compared with \$44.45 billion in August; Jim O'Neill, head of research at Swiss Bank Corporation in London, said: "The Bank of England can disguise the true figures in all sorts of ways. They are most likely to have operated in the swap and forward markets, which allows them to smooth out the figures." In addition, liquidity for currency has also been obtained through loans from the Bundesbank among others, a figure that does not show in the official reserves and that has to be repaid in three to six months.

The Bundesbank, which held its fortnightly council meeting in the eastern German town of Schwerin in one

of Europe's industrially most depressed regions, yesterday left official interest rates unchanged.

At a news conference after the meeting, Dr Schlesinger knocked down rumours of a pending German rate cut by insisting that the discount and the Lombard rate are to remain at present levels of 8.25 per cent and 9.5 per cent for the time being. However, he officially said it was the present policy to keep the interest rate in money market operations at below 9 per cent. Compared with the beginning of last month, when money market rates were close to then prevailing discount rate of 9.75 per cent, Germany has effectively, though not officially, cut interest rates by almost 1 per cent.

Dr Schlesinger, who refused to take questions in English during the press conference, also said that he will not resign prematurely because of this week's row. He is scheduled to retire in September next year after just over two years in office.

Dr Schlesinger appealed for calm and the re-establishment of a new basis for trust after the acrimony over the past few weeks. He also reiterated the Bundesbank's "clear commitment to Europe".

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Week Ending, page 19

Lower job losses in US ease pressure on Fed

BY ANATOLE KALETSKY, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE US economy lost 57,000 jobs last month compared with a loss of 128,000 in August, according to the Labor Department.

Although the report presented a picture of a weak economy unable to create new jobs, it was not as gloomy as some analysts had expected and took pressure off the Federal Reserve to cut interest rates further.

Many traders had been expecting a cut in US interest rates to follow the figures and the dollar strengthened when the cut failed to materialise.

The department said that when the impact of a government summer jobs programme was taken out of the calculations, the economy gained 40,000 jobs in September and lost 50,000 jobs in August. Some economists had predicted a loss of 200,000.

Separately, the Commerce Department reported that factory orders dropped for a second straight month in August. The 1.9 per cent followed an 0.9 per cent drop in July and drove home the stagnation faced by the manufacturing sector. Order backlog dropped to a three-and-a-half-year low, the department said.

First taxman, now supertaxman

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

THE Inland Revenue could be about to strike fear into taxpayers' hearts with a plan to link its employees' pay to individual performance.

Stephen Dorell, financial secretary to the Treasury, revealed the initiative, which will affect 60,000 staff yesterday. He said: "The performance of every member of staff of the Inland Revenue will be measured against clear objectives and their pay adjusted to reflect it."

The government hoped the change, which comes into force from next April, would make public-sector pay more flexible.

The Inland Revenue was quick to dismiss suggestions that the change would lead to the emergence of a hyper-

efficient taxman, banging on doors to demand prompt payment.

A spokesman said the department was also in the business of repaying money and was trying to ensure that queries were answered quickly. Individual targets would be based on existing ones. They would include responding to correspondence within

28 days and, for managers, cost efficiency and staff management.

The targets will be reviewed every few months and there will be a detailed plan of what each individual has to achieve.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, decided in July to delegate responsibility for Inland Revenue pay to its man-

agement, reducing the Treasury's role in setting the standards of service which the Revenue is expected to meet. The Revenue will also abolish automatic salary increases based on length of service.

Mr Dorell said the system would be fairer to those who performed well, who would receive their due reward, and to those who had not, "because it makes both objectives and consequences clearer and more explicit". Most importantly, he said, "it is fairer to taxpayers".

Under the old system, a senior tax inspector might have earned £30,915 after five annual incremental steps. From April, the same inspector's pay will rise above £24,809 only if he or she reaches the required performance targets.



Canary Wharf chiefs ousted

BY JON ASHWORTH

FOUR Canary Wharf directors have lost their jobs, just four months after administrators were appointed to the UK arm of Olympia & York, the Canadian property group.

They are Michael Dennis, the driving force behind the Canary Wharf project after O&Y took it over in 1987; Robert John, Charles Young and Peter Dale. They were among 34 employees made redundant yesterday in what was described as a proposed

restructuring of the Docklands company.

Stephen Adamson of Ernst & Young, joint administrator of Canary Wharf, described the redundancies as regrettable, but said the essential strengths of the O&Y team had been retained.

Mr Dennis defended the Docklands project when administrators were appointed on May 28. He insisted the scope of Canary Wharf had been correct, adding: "I would

say the project is exactly what London needs."

The administrators have repeated their willingness to provide up to £400 million towards the proposed Jubilee line Docklands extension.

Bankers have agreed to pay Canary Wharf's operating costs if the government accepts the offer.

No agreement has been reached on whether several thousand civil servants should be relocated to Canary Wharf.

Big Mac from the big cheese: Paul Preston, McDonald's UK president, serving customers at the company's Leicester Square outlet in London's West End. Along with most other senior McDonald's managers all over the world, he was taking part in McDonald's Founder's Day, which commemorates the corporation's founding in 1955 by Ray A. Kroc.

McDonald's Restaurants, which was established in Britain in 1974, now has 450 restaurants in the UK and employs over 26,000 people, serving a million customers a day.

Amstrad dives into the red

BY MICHAEL TATE
CITY EDITOR

AMSTRAD, which has done more than any other company to bring the electronic revolution to the masses, has stumbled into the red. Alan Sugar, founder, chairman and owner of more than a third of the equity, reported pre-tax losses of £70.9 million for the six months to June 30, including £31.9 million of provisions relating to the collapse in the personal computer market.

The final dividend has been axed, leaving shareholders with the 0.4p interim they received earlier this year. Mr Sugar stressed the need to "concentrate on and maintain liquidity". He said the company aimed to be insulated from outside influences and self-sufficient in funding the on-going business.

There was, however, no further news of Mr Sugar's plan to take Amstrad private, unveiled two weeks ago. "Both I and the company are taking the advice necessary to progress the proposals," said Mr Sugar, who has intimated that he would pay 30p a share for the 64.6 per cent of the equity in public hands.

Amstrad has been crippled by the ferocious price war in personal computers and the slump in the popularity of home computers. About half of the provisions relate to computer stock write-downs, the rest to restructuring costs.

Mr Sugar said Amstrad had net cash balances of £113.8 million on June 30, but pointed out that the figure would fall during the first half of the current year, as stocks were replenished for the key Christmas period.

Tempus, page 18

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TEMPOS

Market sceptical over Amstrad revival

ON THE whole the City would probably be happy to see the back of Amstrad, if not quite as pleased as Alan Sugar would be to sever his links with the City. Mr Sugar had learned enough of City etiquette to ensure that the £70.9 million loss reported yesterday came as no surprise, even if the market was not quite so prepared for the final dividend to be chopped completely, but communication was as difficult as ever, given the constraints now that the company is technically in an offer period.

The absence of further news on Mr Sugar's proposal to buy the company back from the public was disappointing, and was taken by the market to indicate at best a delay, and at worst second thoughts, although the company said nothing had changed.

And yet if Mr Sugar is serious in his proclaimed objective, it should surely not take too long to drum up the £112.6 million he needs to finance a 30p bid for the shares he does not own, given that the company was sitting on cash of £113.8 million at the end of June.

Up to half of this is now being turned back into stock for the lucrative Christmas

period, and one assumes Amstrad will be careful to avoid another collapse like that seen in the personal computer market in recent months, which was responsible for the £31.9 million exceptional items.

PCs aside, the rest of the business lost £39.1 million before tax, and some word on non-computer operating margins since the year-end would have been helpful. Hopefully that will arrive as the bid surfaces, so shareholders can assess more adequately the fairness of the 30p valuation.

The evidence that Amstrad can bounce back is not convincing. Satellite sales and margins have slipped, the fax machine market can be nearly as volatile as PCs and the attempt to re-establish a position in audio needs time.

Market scepticism over Mr Sugar's plans showed in the share price just 25p. But if he does come up with the cash, shareholders are going to rely heavily on the independent directors for guidance.

Scottish TV

SCOTTISH Television shares have risen more than 1p since August, so it is no surprise that an indifferent set of



Close to his chest: Alan Sugar gave no further details on his plan to buy back Amstrad

interim figures should have sent the share price 20p lower to 419p. Scottish TV remains among the three regional ITV contractors that successfully avoided a snook at the government's fumbled attempts to import the disciplines of the

market into the television industry.

Like Central and LWT, Scottish gambled on a low bid in the October 1991 franchise round and succeeded. Scottish offered a derisory £2,000 to retain Roy Thomson's "li-

cence to print money," to win through the bidding unopposed. The company gave a clear indication where the money saved would go when it unveiled in August a new programme-making subsidiary aimed at making the

same logo more familiar on screens south of the border from next year onwards.

Pre-tax profits came in at £2.2 million for the six months to end-June, respectively ahead of the £1.16 million announced last time after a £1.75 million reduction in the exchequer levy and a repeated £2 million cost from job cuts. The dividend is up 20 per cent, from 1.4375p to 1.725p.

Net advertising revenue was 7 per cent ahead — confirming the already noted tendency of advertisers to concentrate on the more populous regions at a time of recession and to pull spending away from the provinces — and programme sales were up 23 per cent. But there was some concern in the market that operating expenses were ahead 14 per cent to £45 million despite the slimming-down already achieved at the core business.

Scottish TV is set to make at least £13.5 million pre-tax this year, putting the shares on 23 times' prospective earnings. Profits should jump to £23.5 million, however, in the more favourable environment in 1993. The shares should retain their premium rating for a time to come.

Power systems division helps Adwest advance

A STRONG recovery in the power systems division helped Adwest Group, the automotive components, engineering and property group, to lift pre-tax profits from £7.1 million in £15.3 million in the year to end-June. An unchanged dividend of 5.75p makes a total maintained at 7p. But Fred Grant, the chairman, said there was as yet little real sign of an end to the recession. He said: "We've made a good start to the year, but the general trading climate is still very brittle. There are some soft patches coming, particularly on the automotive side."

The profits increase came despite the non-recurrence of last time's £1 million of property dealing profits, when there were also substantial losses incurred on a power generation contract. Mr Grant said: "We believe we have gone as far as we can with cost-cutting measures without doing lasting damage to the future well-being of the production units."

Stakis wins debt pause

STAKIS, the hotel and health care group, has won an extension of a standstill on debt repayments to its banks. The company, based in Glasgow, first reached a deal on the debt, which peaked at £15 million, in August 1991. That deal, with 21 banks, has been extended until March 31, 1993. Stakis launched a recovery programme in June 1991 after parting company with Andros Stakis, son of Sir Reo Stakis, the company's founder, as chief executive. The company is refocusing on hotels and nursing homes.

London Brick released

LONDON Brick, a subsidiary of Hanson, the industrial conglomerate, has been released from an undertaking to set its delivery charge on a zonal basis. But Neil Hamilton, corporate affairs minister, said the company was still obliged to allow customers to collect bricks from its works at published ex-works prices. London Brick has given assurances to the Office of Fair Trading that it will continue to make available information about the brick market on request so that the OFT can keep it under review.

Roquefort stake sold

GROUPE Besnier, a French cheese firm, is buying Source Perrier's 57 per cent stake in Caves de Roquefort for Fr862.98 million. Nestlé, which bought Perrier this year, had agreed to give Crédit Agricole, the farm bank and Roquefort's second-largest shareholder, first refusal. Besnier said the bank, which has 26 per cent of Roquefort, had approved the deal. Besnier has also offered to buy Roquefort shares at the same price from any minority shareholders wishing to sell.

Dolphin holds payout

DOLPHIN Packaging is holding its dividend at 1.7p a share, despite a 44.8 per cent slump in first half profits to £789,000 (£1.43 million), as both margins and volumes came under pressure. Moger Wooley, chairman of the Dorset-based plastic packaging specialist, said the decrease in profits is almost entirely due to reduced selling prices. "The market place has seen a price reduction of at least 15 per cent," he said. Turnover in the six months to end-June declined to £12.3 million (£13.9 million). The shares lost 9p to 91p.

Ash & Lacy slips back

ASH & LACY, a West Midlands metals processor, saw pre-tax profits slip to £1.96 million (£2.3 million) in the half year to July 3. Turnover increased slightly to £28.7 million (£27.8 million). Earnings per share were 5.09p (6.04p). The dividend is held at 2.5p. Margins were squeezed by difficult trading conditions in the UK and France. Profits from non-ferrous distribution benefited from a largely stable copper price, despite continuing weak demand. Lower consumer demand had a severe impact on the pressings division.

Clifford Foods slumps

CLIFFORD Foods, the dairy products fruit juices and chilled foods group, is maintaining its interim dividend at 4.4p despite a 60 per cent decline in profits. Pre-tax profits slid to £1.03 million in the six months to end-June, down from £2.55 million last time. Turnover dipped to £70.1 million, against £70.3 million. Earnings fell to 4.11p a share, against 10.23p. The company said it expects trading levels in the second half to be "significantly better" than in the first half.

Losses deepen at Reed

A RISE in demand for temporary office staff came too late for Reed Executive, the employment agency, which saw its pre-tax losses deepen to £3.7 million (£3.3 million) in the six months to June 28. But Alec Reed, the chairman, said business in the regions is picking up. Turnover declined to £40.8 million (£44 million). The loss per share is 5.8p (loss of 4.6p) and there is no dividend (nil). The company expects to continue trading at a loss for some time, but cash losses have been dramatically reduced in the past three months.

M&S supplier thrives

ALBERT Martin Holdings bucked the recession with a 7.5 per cent rise in first-half profits to £572,000. Turnover at the clothing manufacturer and importer, which is a major supplier to Marks and Spencer, rose 9.2 per cent to £33.6 million for the six months to end-June. Michael Kidd, chairman, said the group's overseas activities produced an operating profit of £951,000. However, UK operating profits declined to £352,000. Earnings dip to 2p (2.1p) a share. The interim dividend is maintained at 1.7p a share.

Trafalgar will hoist recovery signal in fight with Jardine

BY MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

SIR Nigel Broaske and Sir Eric Parker will identify a strong recovery in the worldwide construction and engineering activities of Trafalgar House this year as a key reason why shareholders should resist the temptation to sell their share to Hongkong Land next week.

Trafalgar's two knights have only days in which to convince their shareholders that the group has turned the corner and that the Jardine group's bid, for what they believe would mean effective control, should be rejected.

Ministers bow to City pressure

BY GRAHAM SEARJANT FINANCIAL EDITOR

THE government is revising draft proposals to extend the laws against insider trading after a chorus of protest. City institutions and firms, including the London Stock Exchange, have claimed that the plans were drawn so wide as to jeopardise legitimate stockbroking advice and analysis.

In a speech to the City of London Corporation, Anthony Nelson, economic secretary to the Treasury, said: "I am confident that the revised proposals which we are now preparing will substantially address the legitimate points which people have put to us about the draft legislation."

Clauses on insider trading, to enact EC directives, are to be included in a criminal bill due this autumn. Mr Nelson said the legislation would not make the legitimate work of analysts illegal, interfere with normal investment business or stop underwriting of stock issues.

The draft clauses aimed to extend insider trading rules to dealing in government stocks and to ban advice based on non-public knowledge even if no confidential information was imparted. Some unpublished industry data could have been classified as inside information.

Wilkes cuts dividend after interim loss



Stepping down: Stephen Hinchliffe, former chairman, received around £550,000 for loss of office

By PHILIP PANGALOS

JAMES Wilkes, the refocused specialist engineering group which fended off a £28 million hostile bid from Petrocon earlier this year, is cutting its dividend after sliding into the red at half-time.

Trafalgar yesterday formally rejected the Hongkong Land tender offer, which it said "seriously undervalued" the businesses and assets of the company. Sir Eric, deputy chairman and chief executive, said: "This attempt to gain effective control of Trafalgar House on the basis of an inadequate price for a minority shareholding is not in shareholders' interests. Hongkong Land's tender offer is an attempt to gain effective control of all these assets for an investment of some £175 million." He said the board "unanimously recommends shareholders to reject the tender offer."

Trafalgar ordinary shares closed at 85½p and the A at 81½p, which indicated that the market was placing little confidence in suggestions that a rival bidder could emerge.

Hongkong Land has reserved the right to snap up 12-month restraint on bidding should a rival appear.

Arthur Watt, who replaced Mr Hinchliffe as chairman, stressed that all existing business are profitable.

The group is trimmed to 3.25p (4.75p).

Bank of England hits back at Senate report on BCCI

By JONATHAN PRYNN

number of witnesses from the Bank," the statement said.

The Bank is particularly incensed by suggestions that it might be implicated in the £10 billion BCCI fraud and "states in unequivocal terms that the allegations that it acted in some way in collusion with various parties, including BCCI, are wholly without foundation".

The report lists the UK as one of 73 countries where BCCI had relationships with officials "that ranged from the questionable ... to the fully corrupt".

The statement from the Bank, which waited until it had time to study the report before responding, goes on to rebut in detail six key allegations levelled against the BCCI committee.

The Bank's comments are

echoed in an equally angry statement issued by Price Waterhouse, BCCI's auditors, who are also strongly criticised in the Kerry committee report. The report is dismissed as "a hotchpotch of hearsay, conjecture and unsubstantiated assertion".

The Price Waterhouse statement claimed that Ian Brindle, the senior partner of Price Waterhouse UK, had offered to co-operate with the Kerry committee in November last year but had received no reply or acknowledgement of the offer.

The PW statement continued: "Any enquiry into the BCCI fraud that is conducted without either meeting the principal auditors or obtaining access to their papers leaves the usefulness of its conclusions open to doubt. So it has proved in this instance."

MMI policyholders seek cover

BY OUR INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

CONFUSION continued to grip the local authority insurance market yesterday as policyholders with MMI, the stricken insurance group, struggled to find affordable cover in the open market.

A short-term emergency facility has already been set up at Lloyd's offering authorities a one-month public liability cover of up to £10 million.

However, local authorities looking to put longer-term arrangements in place were faced with massive increases

in rates or point-blank refusals from many insurers. The large composite groups, largely driven out of the local authority market by MMI's aggressive pricing policy in the early 1980s, are reluctant to return because of an absence of claims experience on which to base their pricing.

Cornhill Insurance, one of few large insurers providing a similar service, said it was "inundated with enquiries". Some local authority facilities, closed after Wednesday's statement that MMI was taking no new business, reopened yesterday as councils arranged new

cover or decided to risk paying losses and liability claims from the public from their own reserves.

Representatives of the three main local authority groupings last night met trade department officials.

Hopes that MMI could be rescued through an injection of new money receded with the release of figures by the Institute of Insurance Brokers showing the company's solvency margin plunged from 53.5 per cent in 1990 to minus 2.5 per cent last year.

At the longer end, Treasury 3s 1998/99 dropped £2 to 93½%, while in shorts Exchequer 9¾ per cent 1998 was down five ticks at 104½%.

Comment, page 21

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Anatomy of a recession

Since 1990 more than 1m jobs have gone.

Tomorrow, The Sunday Times gives a breakdown of the regions and sectors worst hit. Is this a service-industry recession... a southeast recession...?

For the answers read

The Sunday Times

Business, tomorrow

18 BUSINESS NEWS

	High	Low	Stock	Price	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	19th	20th	21st	22nd	23rd	24th	25th	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	13th	14th	15th	16th	17th	18th	1

BUSINESS PROFILE: Frances Heaton

Making a habit of clearing City fences

Carol Leonard discovers a lighter side to the first woman to become director general of the City Takeover Panel

No one who works with Frances Heaton, the director general of the Takeover Panel, knows her well. They might think that they do but they do not. Heaton, 47, a Lazarus Brothers corporate finance director, on secondment to the panel for two years — and the first woman to hold that lofty and influential position — would be described by even the most perceptive of her colleagues as competent, competitive and controlled. All of that is entirely correct.

They would then go on, however, to claim that she is unemotional, that she is hyperactive and, after considering her well voiced protestations that this "being a woman thing" is a "non-issue" they would probably conclude that she was typical of the first wave of high level female career women, who dress in pinstripe suits, button down shirts, flat shoes and are devoid of make-up, jewellery and perfume. At first glance, Heaton could well be of that mould. Her suit is dark, her hair is cut short and her upper-crust accent sounds clipped and slightly anxious. After 20 years at the Treasury and at merchant banks, she does not, she admits, feel comfortable with "the PR side" of her job and tends to avoid interviews from the media as she will be continuously asked questions about her being a woman, about her husband, their two teenage sons and domestic life.

Given those anxieties, I talk to her at first about the panel. She gives considered answers. She describes the atmosphere within the panel as "collegial", says it has a "very specific function to apply the Takeover Code", and likens her role there to that of a football referee. "One of the things the panel does is not to always apply all of the rules rigorously," she says. "We are not a statutory body, if we were we would have no choice."

Heaton says it is important for the panel to be allowed discretion; she supports self-regulation. "I think my views on this have been reinforced, as I see the difficulties

they are experiencing in Australia and France, where they have statutory bodies." She cites takeover bids that have been locked in lengthy legal battles in those countries. "It makes one very relieved that we have got the system we have. Our role is to come up with a solution that is pragmatic. I don't want to be complacent, but the panel has been going for 25 years, it has had its ups and downs, but on the whole it works very well. I would not want to meddle with it."

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Melting smile: when Frances Heaton laughs she is no longer the ice maiden, "her face alters, becoming softer and far prettier"

sense of self-importance. It is as if she cannot quite believe that she is doing what she does, but that since she is there, she might as well strive to do her best. "I absolutely never dreamt I would end up doing something like this," she says. "It never even entered my head that I would have a career. I thought I would have a nanny and three horses,"

By now, Heaton has become less considered, more responsive. "I suppose," she ponders, "that when you have a full time job, two homes, two teenage sons and horses, you get to the point where you are overextended. It does become jolly difficult to relax. There's always something you feel you could be doing, even if it's only making custard." The ice maiden is beginning to melt. But there is, no categorical sign of a watershed until I inadvertently hit

upon one particularly sensitive spot, Heaton's father. A Hampshire tenant farmer, who built up such a good business that he was eventually able to buy his freehold, he was, according to Heaton, as strict as he was strong.

He forbade her from pursuing her first love — horses — as a career, but she adored him nevertheless. "I think his father had lost a lot of money on horses, but I don't know because it was never discussed," she mutters, speaking in a whisper as if afraid that her father might somehow overhear. He died five years ago but was clearly a dominant force in her life. As she talks about him, the tears begin to trickle. The trickle turns into an uncontrollable sob. The supposedly unemotional director

general is distraught. "I miss him so much," she gasps. "I'm so proud of all that he achieved." Her mother, a magistrate, died three years later.

Five minutes pass, and Heaton, ailed by tissues and a cup of tea, has all but recovered. To her credit, she makes no attempt to scratch what has happened from the record. She is the type of person who would always be stoically accountable for her actions. Heaton admits that she can have a fiery temper, "mostly when I get tired and usually because someone has put my favourite knife in the wrong drawer, or something like that. Afterwards I feel very foolish and go round apologising." But would her City colleagues see her as emotional or temperamental? "No, probably not," she says. One person who would not be surprised, how-

ever, is Anna Harvey, the deputy editor of *Vogue*, who was a contemporary of Heaton's at Queen Anne's School, Caversham in Berkshire.

"She is very warm, very loving and very caring," says Harvey. "Yes, she is emotional and as a child she was very wilful. She was always very single-minded, and did not suffer fools. She could sometimes be rude but whereas the teachers would interpret it as impertinence, she would say she was simply being honest. She has more integrity than any other person I know. And she has a terrific sense of humour."

The surprising thing about Harvey, however, is that someone like her should be cited by Heaton as one of her closest friends. For Heaton, with her first in law from Trinity College, Dublin, and her

Inner Temple training as a barrister, to be so closely associated with the glamorous, frothy world of haute couture, forces one to look again at this supposedly dry professional. She is, by now, a very different person to the one I was introduced to an hour or so earlier. She is animated, jovial, anything but dry.

I take a closer look also at her clothes. Her suit may be dark but it is olive green, not navy blue or black, and there are small bows on the lapels. "It's my best suit, a Paddy Campbell actually," confides Heaton with obvious pride, "and this, of course, is my Gap t-shirt". She fingers her salmon pink t-shirt and laughs.

She watches me as I scrutinise her more closely. Her shoes are highly polished, her legs and figure enviable, and her bone structure perfect. She is, in fact, an exceptionally pretty woman. I begin to wonder whether Heaton has been forced into a career that she has never truly enjoyed, for as soon as that stiff, protective guard is allowed to drop, she ceases to look the part. She readily admits that she did not enjoy her job at the Treasury, where she worked for seven years. "I did not enjoy my time there at all. I always hated going back there after holidays but I felt like that about school, too, and so I just did it. If you have been brought up in a disciplined way you do things you do not like doing."

A two-year secondment from the Treasury to SG Warburg was like a "breath of fresh air". Heaton thrived on the adrenaline surges caused by deal-making, but disliked Warburg's workaholic attitude and moved to Lazard's in 1980, becoming a director in 1987. She likens corporate finance to three-day evening and claims that the pressures are similar. "There are lots of similarities — the mental pressure of eventing, the precision of dressage. Then you have really got to go for it, cross country, and you need to have stamina. Doing corporate finance deals is physically tiring. It's certainly the best substitute I've found." A substitute, of course, for competitive horse riding. And therein lies Heaton's one admitted regret. That she was not given an opportunity "to see how far I could get in riding". If she had gone against her father's wishes, he would, she says, have disowned her. There is, however, one other regret, too painful to be voiced, but far more keenly felt. It is that her father is no longer alive to appreciate her alternative achievements.

Matthew Bond

Now appearing in Sorry, I'll read that again and What's my line?

Am I dreaming or have we really just witnessed a week in which V2 rockets, a Baron von Richthofen and Spitfire planes battled for dominance of newspaper front pages?

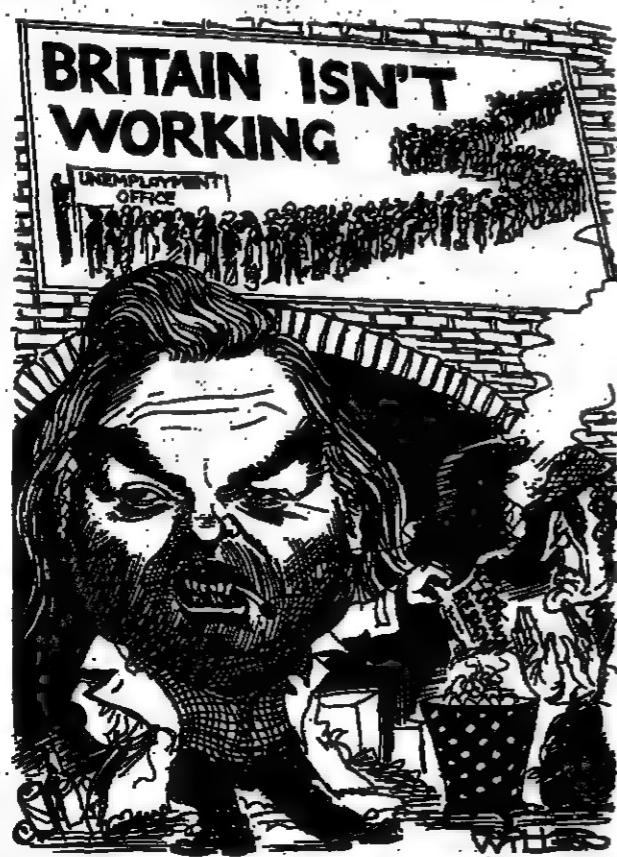
Before going any further, it might be prudent for readers to give this column a sharp pinch, to make sure that its well-lunched author did not doze off in front of last Sunday's film matinee. Ouch! No, it is just as I feared — horribly true.

For horrid this week was — and not just because of the improbable echoes of events most thought long over. More recent and familiar evils were also excelling themselves. Hour by hour, Britain's jobs and less queue grew longer and hour by hour the pound's value fell lower. As Lord Callaghan might have put it, the sky was dark with chickens coming home to roost — but only after dropping their calling cards on those who sought to labour below.

Truly it was a sad, sad situation but sorry seemed a long way from the hardest word. Indeed, it seemed the only word. For as the litany of economic woe continued, apologies were breaking out all over.

It was, appropriately, Norman Lamont, who initiated this orgy of regret, but then he has a lot to be sorry for. He began well — by apologising to the nation. Unfortunately, it was to the German nation. Germany, he felt, had been on the receiving end of too many harsh, Anglo-Saxon words both before and after Britain's undignified departure from the ERM. He begged its forgiveness.

Anyone puzzled by such behaviour should have borne in mind who was doing the apologising — Mr Lamont of the "we are absolutely committed to the ERM" policy line. Had they done so, they would not have been surprised when, 24 hours later, he turned round and said he had not apologised to Germany, and



apologised to anyone in Britain who thought he had. And they should not be surprised when ("of course, I am not resigning") he performs his final U-turn and adds one more to the jobless total.

The Germans were briefly caught up by the spirit of conciliation and graciously withdrew official support from the celebrations surrounding the 50th anniversary of the first successful V2 rocket. But no sooner had they done so, than the Bundesbank launched another financial rocket towards Britain.

It landed, with devastating effect, on the desk of Baron von Richthofen, the German ambassador. The explosion that followed his decision to share the memo's contents with a wider audience sparked the sort of round of "we're sorry/we're not sorry" that followed his decision to share the memo's contents with a wider audience.

Anglo-German hostilities were immediately resumed, inflamed by suggestions that the European fighter aircraft be rechristened the Spitfire should Britain decide, as the defence ministry suggested it

should, to pursue the £2 billion project alone. Presumably Malcolm Rifkind and Jonathan Aitken have already pencilled in dates to apologise to the workforce when Britain does not.

As for Mr Major, faced with surveys showing that over 1,200 companies were going bust a week and empirical evidence that thousands of jobs were being lost every day, he did what every prime minister does when faced with a domestic crisis. He indulged in a frenzied bout of shuttle diplomacy.

While Mr Lamont was all

apologies, Mr Major was all

lines.

He began by suggesting that the ERM, admirable concept though it was, was riddled with fault lines — with the pound presumably positioned somewhere close to the financial equivalent of the San Andreas fault.

His European hosts begged to differ. Mr Major, in need of allies, quietly concurred and announced that he was drawing a line under such disagreements. The future, he said, would begin with a ratified Maastricht treaty, even if it took a three-line whip to get there.

Top priority for Mr Major's diplomatic endeavour was to lay the lie of a two-speed Europe. Britain wanted to be up there, in line with its European partners, he said. Chancellor Kohl and President Mitterrand, presumably swayed by an avalanche of evidence from the likes of Boulton & Paul, PowerGen, IBM, Sears, Cadbury-Schweppes and VSEL in Britain's private sector and the RAF, BBC, PSA and Defence Research Agency in the public, reluctantly agreed. No speed Europe it is.

All round, a horrid week.

But let us finish in Ukraine,

where prime minister Vitaly

Rokin resigned this week. He explained his departure thus:

"I have noticed growing tensions in society and have finally had to arrive at the conclusion that I am so dissatisfied that it would be better for me to go." Here's to

conclu-

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GUIDANCE on what to do if you are behind with mortgage payments and a warning that bankruptcy is not an easy way to escape debts are among the more sobering items in *The New Penguin Guide to Personal Finance*.

Alison Mitchell, the presenter of Radio Four's *Moneybox* programme, devotes a sizable part of the book to coping with debt. She gives a warning that bankruptcy is not automatically given and that it does not write off mortgage arrears, rent, tax or VAT.

Mrs Mitchell says of bankruptcy: "Although it will take the immediate pressure off your financial circumstances, it will wreck your money plans for the rest of your life. You will probably never again get a mortgage, a bank loan or anything on hire purchase."

The book costs £17.95 and is published on October 29.

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SAVE & PROSPER
THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

Societies launch scheme to house homeless in repossessed property

By LINDSAY COOK,
MONEY EDITOR

A SCHEME to use repossessed properties to house the homeless and those put in bed and breakfast accommodation by local authorities was launched this week by two building societies.

The National & Provincial and Bristol & West have joined forces to put £10 million into the project which should initially help to house 200 families. It is hoped that other lenders will join the scheme once it is established.

Talks are already advanced with other societies. This will increase the number of homes available. Under the project, local authorities and housing associations are expected to contact Community Housing, an associated company of the two societies set up for the purpose, with details of their housing needs.

The societies will then check what they have on their books that might fit. These will then be sold to Community Housing for the higher of two independent valuations and let to the tenants identified by the local authorities at "affordable rents". This might be £100 a week for a two-bedroom house in London.

The two societies have about 4,000 repossessed properties to choose from. In the first six months of the year, mortgage lenders took almost 36,000 properties into possession. Many of these, and those remaining unsold from last year, are depressing the housing market. Lenders have a



Home help: Tony FitzSimons, of Bristol & West, who says: "We want to identify people who need a house."

fiduciary duty to get the best possible price for them, but in a depressed market unkempt and unoccupied properties do not sell.

Many of them have deteriorated since the owners left. Under the scheme, it is intended that properties should not be allowed to remain empty for too long. After three months on the open market they will become available for rental. First of all, the society will have to make sure they are brought up to the correct

standard. David O'Brien, chief executive of the N & P, said: "We are offering a viable alternative to the fire sale of repossessed properties."

The societies hope to get a rental yield of 7 per cent from the properties, but say that any income is better than them being left empty and their value falling.

Tony FitzSimons, chief executive of Bristol & West said: "We want to identify people who need a house first and not houses on our books that we want to sell."

Circle 33, one of the hous-

ing associations expected to use the scheme to house families has had difficulty finding suitable properties for rental from lenders.

Melinda Phillips, a director, said: "Over the last five years we have leased from the private sector 2,500 properties. Since Christmas we have been feverishly looking for more empty properties we could rent. We want to be able to get more people out of bed and breakfast more quickly."

When more lenders join the scheme the number of properties in specific areas of need will increase. One or two societies may have only a few suitable properties in one location, but as more join the scheme the available properties will increase and be in more useful numbers for local authorities or housing associations.

The rents charged are likely to be below the housing benefit threshold for each area. This will mean that if a three-bedroom £200,000 property is put into the scheme in the same area as a three-bedroom £60,000 property, the rents are likely to be similar.

The disappointing response from banks, building societies and other lenders left the unanswered question of just how the CAB service was supposed to cope with the current level of debt work, he

added. Attempts by the Money Advice Trust, backed by Nasab and the Finance Houses Association, to raise £3 million a year from private industry had failed miserably.

Malcolm Hudson, a member of the trust, admitted that only £1 million had been raised since the fund was launched last year. Of that sum, nearly three quarters went directly to money advice units around the country, with the rest going to the trust for distribution. A national debt line was the trust's next objective, he added.

So far, building societies and Scottish banks have proved the most resistant to appeals for help. Pleas for support and threats to expose those who ignore them have proved equally unsuccessful, and the trust has now resorted to calling for government help. MAT representatives met Lady Denton of Wakefield, the minister responsible for consumer affairs, four weeks ago, but are still awaiting her response. "She has been fully briefed," Mr Hudson said.

Citizens' Advice Bureaux are now advising on more than 1.7 million separate debts each year. Home owners threatened with repossession, self-employed people whose businesses have failed, and people facing bankruptcy were the fastest growing categories. Students, unable to cope on dwindling grants, are another growing problem.



Lady Denton: fully briefed

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Counsellors to offer US-style service on debts

By LIZ DOLAN

A DEBT counselling service, to be launched next April, could ease the plight of citizens' advice bureaux struggling to cope with an explosion of enquiries about debt and other recession-related problems.

The first American-style consumer credit counselling service is to be launched in Leeds, with the backing of GE Capital, which provides credit for Burton customers among others.

If this is successful, a network of 20 non-profitmaking offices is planned. The service puts people who cannot cope with their debts on what it terms "debt management". That means they pay a monthly cheque for as much as they can afford to the counselling service, which shares the money out among creditors.

Although non-profit-making, the service will charge creditors who benefit from the payments on a pro-rata basis. In America, consumer credit counselling is backed by a charity, the National Foundation. Over here, it is likely to be run by a body of professional administrators and counsellors.

In its annual report this week, the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux drew attention to the plight of members struggling to cope with a 7 per cent increase in enquiries at a time when their own funding requirements were also being hit by recession.

Consumer and debt problems were up by 15.9 per cent and employment-related queries had grown by 10.5 per cent, but local authorities had been forced to limit support through lack of funds, and the credit industry itself had largely failed to answer appeals for debt advice funding. Stuart Errington, the Nasab chairman, said:

The disappointing response from banks, building societies and other lenders left the unanswered question of just how the CAB service was supposed to cope with the current level of debt work, he

Repayment cover for borrowers

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

THE Birmingham Midshires Building Society is offering payment protection insurance to its 68,000 of its existing borrowers. They have until November 6 to apply for the insurance which costs £6.50 per £100 of cover.

Most lenders are unable to offer this cover to existing borrowers because insurers fear that they will get applications only from people who suspect their days in employment are numbered. The 13th largest society has found that 35 per cent of its new borrowers opt for mortgage repayment cover, which is more than double the average for lenders. The policy, underwritten at Lloyd's, costs £6.50 per £100 of cover.

mortgage payments. It will not pay out for unemployment during the first 120 days after the policy is taken out. When policyholders lose their jobs they have to wait a further 60 days before the claim can be made. It will then pay out for up to a full year. Self-employed people over 60 and those working abroad are excluded.

Other lenders to allow existing borrowers to take cover include the Woolwich, Cheltenham & Gloucester and National Westminster Bank. Woolwich has a longer form for late applicants to weed out those who might be about to be made redundant.

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£25,000+	Annually	10.00%	7.50%	—

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£50,000+	Annually	9.00%	6.75%	—
£25,000+	Annually	8.25%	6.19%	—
£10,000+	Annually	7.75%	5.81%	—
£5,000+	Annually	7.50%	5.63%	—

PREMIUM 60 INCOME	INTEREST PAID	GROSS RATE	NET RATE	GROSS C.A.R. [*]
£100,000+	Monthly	9.20%	6.90%	9.40%
£50,000+	Monthly	9.02%	6.77%	9.40%
£25,000+	Monthly	8.32%	6.49%	8.65%
£10,000+	Monthly	7.86%	5.90%	8.15%
£5,000+	Monthly	7.53%	5.65%	7.80%
£2,500+	Monthly	6.78%	5.09%	7.00%

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£25,000+	Annually	7.85%	5.89%	—
£10,000+	Annually	7.60%	5.70%	—
£5,000+	Annually	7.10%	5.33%	—
£2,500+	Annually	6.85%	5.14%	—
£500+	Annually	6.40%	4.80%	—
£1+	Annually	1.00%	0.75%	—

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Leaseholders look forward to windfalls from reforms

By RUPERT BRUCE

LEASEHOLD reform is likely to lead to windfall gains for the owners of short leases on flats and houses in central London, according to Savills, the estate agent.

Yolande Barnes, head of Savills residential research, said that owners of leases with, say, 30 years to run would have the opportunity to buy their freeholds and make an immediate profit if they then chose to sell.

Under the proposed law, holders of leases that were originally at least 21 years long, technically known as long leases, will be able to "enfranchise", that is buy, in conjunction with their fellow leaseholders, a share in the freehold of their home.

The proposals stipulate that the leaseholder should pay at least half of the "marriage value" of the leasehold and freehold plus the "open market value".

The marriage value is the worth of the freehold to the leaseholder. In the case of a short lease it could be quite substantial because there is little time left before the leasehold runs out and the property returns to the freeholder.

The open market value is of less significance on a short lease and represents compensation to the freeholder for loss of ground rent.

At present, the proposed leasehold reforms are in the

form of bills for short leases, the proposed laws might lead to gains for holders of longer leases in residential areas where most properties are mortgaged. At present, most lenders refuse to mortgage a property with a lease of less than 50 years. But, she believes, that if leaseholders have the right to buy their freeholds the policy will change.

Ms Barnes said the watershed time after which leases drop significantly in value in such areas is 70 years. "So a lease of say 65 years could go up in the short term."

But the irony of these proposals, according to Ms Barnes, is that while they may enrich the better off in affluent areas, such as London's Knightsbridge, they may do little to tackle the real problem of bad landlords. "Enfranchisement is not always the answer to a bad landlord. In some cases, all people want is a good landlord. One criticism of the legislation is that it does not tackle the problem of a bad landlord in every case."

Some leaseholders will simply not be able to afford the cost of buying their freehold and getting rid of a bad landlord. This could also lead to problems in blocks of flats.

Under the proposed legislation at least two thirds of leaseholders must agree to the purchase, but if one cannot afford to buy, or does not want to, it is difficult to see how the purchase can go ahead.



Leasehold or freehold: Yolande Barnes, of Savills

form of an environment department pamphlet.

Graeme Scott-Dalgleish, a partner in W.A. Ellis the Brompton Road estate agent, said: "I think we have seen an increase in interest in short leases with the prospect of leasehold reform. More people have been looking at the short leases and we have

put one or two away." In general, buyers were more interested in flats or houses where there was a prospect of buying a share in the freehold, or the whole freehold, immediately, regardless of any price advantage they might gain by waiting for the promised reforms.

Ms Barnes believes that in addition to the obvious bene-

Salesmen find window of opportunity

By LIZ DOLAN

DOUBLE glazing salesmen are obviously working overtime. One in three home improvements by Halifax customers over the past year involved installing double glazing. Second most popular was a fitted kitchen (27 per cent) and third, replacement window frames (22 per cent). Two in five of the 1,550 customers asked said they had made some home improvements over the past 12 months.

When asked what they actually wanted to do, customers' tastes became slightly more extravagant, with conservatories, extensions and bathrooms entering the top five. However, double glazing still

loomed large in this list, just 1 per cent behind the most-wished-for improvement, a fitted kitchen (30 per cent).

Scotland and Northern Ireland appeared to be the best hunting grounds for double glazing salesmen, with the product accounting for 36 per cent of all improvements done in those regions over the past year. Midlanders are equally keen on the idea, but do not appear to have put it into practice with such gusto.

While 36 per cent of them want double glazing, only 28 per cent actually installed it recently. On the other hand, although 32 per cent are still dreaming of a new kitchen, 36 per cent have had one fitted within the past 12 months.

Londoners are more likely to be do-it-yourself buffs. They are also keener than most on conservatories and loft conversions. However, northerners are the real loft conversion fans. More than twice as many as the national average converted their lofts last year. Fitting central heating is another northern priority.

People in South Wales and the West are markedly less interested than most in home improvements, although quite a few have brightened up gardens or installed double glazing recently. The South East remains an area of low home improvement activity for the second successive year, probably due to cash problems and falling house prices.

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Do you need a pension that lets you contribute with paying a penalty

The Equitable

Quest for equal retirement age goes on

BY ANNE CABORN

ANN Widdecombe, the pensions minister, is in the "final few weeks" of talks before her department formulates its view on the equalisation of state pension ages. The most likely next step is a white paper.

The social security department has had more than 4,000 responses to *Options for Equality in State Pension Age*, the discussion document published last December.

Miss Widdecombe said the responses varied enormously. "You have letters from women in their 50s who think they will be caught by it, which is not so, and you also have a large number of organisations, including the Equal Opportunities Commission, who have submitted very much more considered responses."

"I'm talking to 20 of these groups in greater depth. When all that is over, which won't be for a few weeks, we will first come to a department view and then the government has to come to a corporate view. I think there is unlikely to be an announcement in the near future."

Concerned organisations are keen that the government should, in examining retirement ages, take a wider look at pensions. June Bridgeman,

deputy Chair of the Equal Opportunities Commission, said: "My view is that the debate about pension ages should be seized as an opportunity to tackle all the glaring defects in the system as it exists now. One of the difficulties is women getting together and focusing their combined voice on all these things and making sure they are just as firmly on the agenda as pension age alone."

Although the consultation period technically ended in June, the government is still accepting responses, which Mrs Bridgeman welcomes.

It was the EOC that supported the European Court of Justice case which in May 1990 decided that pensions were pay and men and women should be treated equally. The government now has to decide at what age pensions should be equalised.

According to government figures, equalisation at 65 could lead to a £3 billion surplus, an equal age of somewhere between 62 and 63 would be cost neutral and equalising at 60 would cost £3.5 billion, while at it would cost £63 million. A further option of a flexible decade is more difficult to cost.

According to Miss Widdecombe, such factors have to be taken into account because as well as a state pension there are attendant benefits that have to be financed, such as free prescriptions and medical consultations. By the year 2025 there will be two working people for every pensioner.

Miss Widdecombe said: "If we do go down to 60 – and that has not been ruled out – we have to try and maintain



Working for the common good: Ann Widdecombe, left, and June Bridgeman

any legislation taking a broad remit and addressing inequalities other than age – such as women's low earnings, the 1988 move from the best 20 years to a lifetime average when calculating Serps and their time outside the job market caring for children and sick relatives.

Miss Widdecombe said existing pensions had positive aspects: "For example, we are the only country in Europe – Denmark has something slightly similar – who offer a woman a pension when she hasn't contributed a penny piece, on the basis of her husband's contribution."

But Mrs Bridgeman said the government should be saying: "What can we do to make this a fairer system which actually matches the reality of people's lives?"

Today's pensioners had different needs and responsibilities. "One of the most interesting things is you now have pensioners supporting an even older generation of pensioners. I do that myself. I've just passed my sixtieth birthday and I've got a 90-year-old mother who depends on me... if there is one thing I would like to see between now and Christmas, it is a more rational, fair, sensible, socially aware state pensions' provision," Mrs Bridgeman said.

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□ The Law Society's Make a Will Week will run from October 12 to October 18. Research commissioned by the society shows that only 29 per cent of adults have wills. The biggest increase in those making wills in the past year was in the 18 to 34 age group.

□ Garmore has cut its initial and annual management fees on its International Fixed Interest fund. The initial charge is 3.3 per cent, down

from 5 per cent. The annual management charge has been cut from 1 per cent to 0.75 per cent of the value of the fund.

□ A service for UK and US expatriates has been introduced by Fidelity Brokerage, the discount stockbroker. The International Investor Service is a telephone-based execution-only dealing service. Investors can deal in US and UK listed stocks, unit trusts and a range of European listed securities. The minimum to set up an account is £5,000.

□ NM Financial Management is offering a 2 per cent discount on its NM Australia unit trust to existing and new unit holders who invest by October 30. Over five years to September 1 1992, the fund has risen by 29.37 per cent.

□ Most people do not know how much life assurance they have, according to a survey from London Life. Of 1,082 people surveyed in July, 51 per cent did not know how much cover they had, while 28 per cent more women than men being ignorant of their cover. Twenty-six per cent said they have life cover of only up to twice their annual income.

□ A tax-free savings plan for adults wanting to save regularly on behalf of a child is being offered by the Teachers Provident Society. It can be started at any time from birth up to the child's 16th birthday. Contribution levels range from £9.25 to £18.50 a month.

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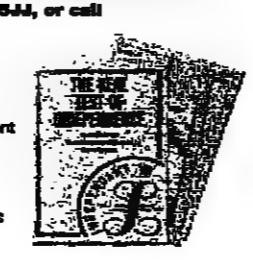
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TMA

Taxing time on health premiums

From Mr John N. Archer

Sir, Whatever one may think of the Treasury's handling of the economy, their handling of income tax relief for premiums in private health schemes has surely been deplorable.

When this relief was first announced, it was welcomed by the many pensioners who were finding premiums that increase substantially with age hard to meet. Then the small print appeared.

My wife, who had joined Bupa through a company scheme, was told she ineligible for tax relief. She moved to the private scheme for civil servants which, like some others, allows limited benefit for periods in convalescent homes, home nursing care and also alternative medicine.

But the Treasury decreed that members could not benefit from these entitlements if claiming tax relief. Oddest of all, out-patient physiotherapy was also excluded unless recommended by a consultant — thus increasing the size of the claim by the consultant's fee.

Income tax relief is given on premiums paid. So these Treasury rules have no effect on the Revenue unless individuals — as some have — opt out of tax relief on account of reduced medical cover. The rules only

serve to reduce the benefits available for the same premium, causing discontent among scheme members.

Now the ultimate bureaucratic nonsense has occurred. The rate on physiotherapy has been changed so that a GP may recommend it. Good news — but now for the bad news — the Treasury refuses to allow the change to take effect until the rules of our association, altered at the insistence of the Treasury itself, are formally re-amended, and this will take six months.

Old civil servants can remember occasions when Treasury officials have been

Holding investments that grow in inflationary circumstances

From Mr Malcolm Smith

Sir, Mr R. W. Lilley (September 19) states that the Occupational Pension Board's advice to hold investments that grow in inflationary circumstances means that the government believes in fight against inflation will not be won.

However, this does not necessarily follow, even assuming that guides issued by government departments accurately reflect government opinion.

No government operating free markets could ever be certain as to the future course of inflation.

The government could believe that the fight against inflation will probably be won,

but acknowledges the possibility that it might not be.

Prudent pension fund trustees thus need to invest in such a way that the assets will be sufficient to meet the liabilities whether inflation proves high or low.

It follows that if some of the liabilities are linked to inflation then an appropriate proportion of the pension fund's assets should be held in investments, such as equities, which are also likely to grow with

One way to cut out charges made by banks

From Mr Chris Philip

Sir, Once again you have published a letter (Martin Knowles, September 26), which criticises banks for their charges, but once again you fail to provide a solution for your numerous correspondents who have written to you on this theme.

The answer is to open an account such as the Nationwide Treasury Account. There are no charges involved and it is therefore ideal for

inflation. A further point is that pension fund liabilities normally fall due over a long period.

A government elected for five-year spells cannot be certain as to what economic policies will be adopted throughout the long term.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM SMITH,
William M. Mercer Fraser,
Actuaries & Consultants,
Telford House,
14 Toffill Street, SW1.

Paying out on endowments

From R. J. Hobdell

Sir, Reference the repayment by insurance companies of matured endowment policies. I have found that, now I am in my mid-sixties, when a policy matures the insurance company invariably fails to inform me of the fact. In the past, it was normal to find a high-pressure salesman on the doorstep reminding me that the policy was due for repayment, and then proceeding to try to sell a replacement. I presume that I am now not a good candidate for an endowment policy.

In recent years, I have had several policies maturing and payment of lump sums on maturing pension policies. In most cases, over a wide range of insurers, there have been delays in paying out. I have calculated the loss of interest involved, at a fair rate, and sent them an invoice. In every case I have received reimbursement, usually by return of post. I have spoken to employees of the companies on this subject; they were amazed that I would claim, and said that it was unusual for customers to bother.

Yours faithfully,
R.J. HOBDELL,
17 Sovereign House,
Draxmont,
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SW19.

small businesses, charities and societies who have to deposit large numbers of small value cheques.

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IN THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

Societies offer fixed loans

BY SARA MCCONNELL

LENTERS have continued to react to last week's cut in base rates with fixed and capped-rate loans at below 9 per cent.

The cheapest capped rate on offer is 7.95 per cent (an annual percentage rate of 11.1 per cent) from Chase de Vere, the independent mortgage broker. The rate is capped until January, 1994. There is an application fee of £200.

The broker also has a two-year fixed rate of 8.2 per cent (10.7 per cent until October, 1994). There is an application fee of £100.

The Woolwich Building Society has launched a fixed-rate mortgage at 8.99 per cent (APR 10.1 per cent) for five years. The loan must be linked to an endowment or pension. A £275 application fee is charged on top of the valuation fee and there is an early redemption penalty of three months' interest.

The Chelsea Building Society has fixed-rate money at 8.5 per cent (APR 10.2 per cent) until December 31, 1994. Borrowers do not have to buy any of the society's insurance products. The administration fee has been cut from £250 to £195.

The Birmingham Midshires is also offering fixed and capped-rate deals without insisting that borrowers take out insurance with the society. It has a rate of 8.9 per cent (APR 10.3 per cent) fixed for two years.

It also has a capped-rate mortgage of 9.20 per cent (APR 10.3 per cent) fixed for two years. There is an arrangement fee of £225 that can be added to the loan.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER 3 1992

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141 First Natl	100	- 10	14 12 12
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S Africa begin testing tour

FROM CHRIS THAU
IN BORDEAUX

SOUTHAfrica have precious little time to identify the best combination for the first international match against France in a fortnight's time. The South Africans want to give each of their 30 players a game before deciding on the shape of the side.

The first 15 of the 30-strong touring party are thrown in at the deep end against France Esport, the second French XV in everything but name, today and the rest take on an even more formidable selection, called Aquitaine, on Wednesday in Pau.

The South Africans are well aware that touring France is a strenuous undertaking as the hosts use each game to soften up the opposition as well as to sort out their own selection priorities.

It is the first South African tour of France in 18 years and the normally conservative newspaper, *Le Figaro*, thought that the event was significant enough to grant the visitors front-page treatment.

With six newcomers in the side, the full back, Hugh Rees-Edwards, the right wing, Deon Oosthuizen, the hooker, Andries Trusoff, the tight-head prop, Keith Andrews, and the flankers, Piet Pretorius and Tiaan Strauss, South Africa's main problem is shortage of international experience. The captain, Naas Botha, has won more caps (25) than the rest of the side put together (16).

"It's going to be tough but that's a risk we had to take. We had no option," John Williams, the coach, said. "On the one hand we have to look at the short-term objective of winning the series and on the other we need to build up a side for the future. There is very little time for learning, it is going to be tough all the way."

SOUTH AFRICA: H Rees-Edwards (No. 15); D Oosthuizen (Northern Transvaal); F Kroosze (Western Province); P Muller (No. 8); P Hendrik (Transvaal); N Botha (Northern Transvaal); captain; A Pretorius (Northern Transvaal); K Andrews (Western Province); P Pretorius (Northern Transvaal); A Gouws (Free State); D Andrews (Northern Transvaal); I Mcdonald (Transvaal); T Strauss (Western Province).

FRANCE ESPORT: C Campan (Agen); D Baille (Toulouse); F Marini (Racing); T Lameir (Dax); P Horne (Bordeaux); G Reign (Lourdes); G Cezard (Toulouse); co-captain; L Pichot (Toulouse); J Pichot (Grenoble); B Grimaud (Auch); X Blard (Racing); D Barole (Biarritz); H Chardon (Grenoble); M Courtois (Bordeaux); G Durand (Toulouse); G Pichot (Toulouse); R Pichot; E Monnier (Eng).



Focal point: Stabler has led West Hartlepool's rise through the divisions

in the first division, then West could survive.

For most of the players, it is still an unforgiving season in which to try and catch your breath in the first division. With the creation of home-and-away fixtures and ten-club leagues next season, four clubs must go down at the end of this campaign. There is no time for learning the art of survival, but West have already assimilated what Stabler believes may be the primary lesson.

"The first division did not become a target until after Christmas, when we were joint top of the second division and realised that we could go up," Stabler said. "There was great excitement at the club this season when we began, and we were all very nervous before our first league match [against Wasps]. The excitement was still there, but, unless we win

the few chances we get, we will go and smidly will start creeping in."

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"We have to cut out mistakes and we must take our chances. That is the biggest difference from the second division. There is not so much space or time, but if we don't

THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER 3 1992

Thompson proving key acquisition

Resurgent Wasps prepared to take lead in creativity

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE imperatives of this season suggest that more clubs, whatever their ranking in the national divisions, will be concerned with survival more than triumph. But avoiding the quartet to be relegated from the first division of the Courage Clubs Championship is not enough for Rob Smith, coach to Wasps, who meet another unbeaten side, Leicester, at Sudbury this afternoon.

"I think that's very negative," Smith said. "You have to concentrate that much harder on developing your own game but while I appreciate league points are vital, you have to be prepared to take risks."

By the end of today one of three clubs — Wasps, Leicester or Northampton — could have taken over leadership of the division from Bath, who are not in league action. Indeed, visitors to Wasps can bet on the league outcome should they desire, since Ladbrooke's will have a blemish on the ground, all part of the restructuring process which is complementary to this season's playing achievements.

There is a confidence in the

club, in the reorganised management structure, Smith said. "Things are happening. There are people around doing the right jobs at the right time. We have good depth in playing strength, the under-21s have started well and it's a happy place to be at the moment."

Wasps' unbeaten teams are limited to three after four rounds of the Heineken League and two of those, Swansea and Neath, meet at St Helen's. Swansiders indulge themselves to the extent of omitting Richard Webster, who plays on the flank for Wales against Italy next Wednesday, since he has only just recovered from a hamstring injury.

Now that Swansiders have missed him, only the selectors believe Webster should conserve his energies for the Italians, who beat Romania 22-3 at L'Aquila on Thursday evening. Mike Hall may struggle to find his place on the wing next Wednesday if the hamstring strain which keeps him out of Cardiff's match with South Wales Police does not mend.

There is a responsibility on the back to create a bit more, to maintain continuity and not go for broke at the first opportunity," Smith said.

"Thompson is a lovely footballer. He has worked very

hard and offers different things to Huw Davies and, before him, Rob Andrew. He is a dangerous player. You have to mark him, and he supports so well. We feel, if we can get our game together, we can challenge anyone in the country."

For all the debate over the new laws this season, Smith does not believe the fundamentals have changed dramatically. There is a greater emphasis on fitness and on skilful players, and it was no coincidence that Wasps this season have acquired Adrian Thompson at stand-off half. Thompson was the key to so much lively back play at Harlequins four years ago and now, having floated from the Stoop via Roehampton to north London, he seems to have found another creative niche.

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Thompson replaces the injured Cuninghame at centre.

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Stabler happy to head West

David Hands talks to the inspiration behind a challenge from the North East

THE offhand remark of a haughty Harlequin has passed into rugby lore: "We were beaten by a lay-off of the M6," he said as he beat retreat from Orrell after defeat in the Sevens. Quite what Harlequins will make of West Hartlepool, as unknown a destination in the league today as Orrell was in the cup 20 years ago, remains to be seen, except that, with luck, greater diplomacy will prevail.

Both clubs have yet to

register a victory in the

Courage Clubs Championship

and, though Harlequins'

pedigree should serve them

well on their first visit to

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Now is the time for a

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Talented local filly can repel strong overseas challenge for the Arc

Jolypha to lift glittering prize

FROM RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT, IN PARIS

EUROPEAN dreams — and nightmares — are not confined to Maastricht.

Tomorrow afternoon, the annual summit, held in the elegant surroundings of Longchamp, will determine whether this season's equine stars from Britain and Ireland can buck tradition and win the Ciga Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe.

The bookmakers' prices for Europe's top middle-distance race will indicate that the classic generation of User Friendly, Dr Devious and St Jovite can see off France's strong team of runners.

The history books tell a different story. The Arc has proved a graveyard down the years for our fancies. Although the Irish-trained Alleged justified punters' confidence in 1977 and 1978, only two of the ten English-trained favourites during the last 26 years have won.

The successes of Dancing Brave and Mill Reef demonstrate the quality required to win the Arc. Last year, Generous joined a distinguished list of failures, led by Sir Ivor, Troy, Nijinsky and Reference Point.

The relative lack of success may stem from the difference

in attitude towards the race which prevails on both sides of the Channel. In Britain, there is a tendency to regard it as a pleasant end-of-season bonus for classic winners following a rigorous domestic campaign.

The French view the race early as the ultimate target of the season and train their runners accordingly.

The record books, rather than form books, have therefore led me to the reluctant conclusion that yet again our best will not be good enough.

User Friendly, the likely favourite, justifiably will have her supporters.

She has won all her six starts, including three Oaks and the St Leger. The tough filly appears to be still improving, should love the ground and does not know the meaning of defeat.

Dr Devious, the Epsom Derby winner, is equally tough but may find it difficult to confirm Irish Champion Stakes form with St Jovite, who was ring rusty at Leopardstown.

While Dr Devious and St Jovite were slogging it out three weeks ago, Magic Night and Jolypha obliged in the Arc trials at Longchamp.

Magic Night, runner-up to

Suave Dancer a year ago and the cinderella of French racing, looks the nearest thing to an each-way certainty, having been brought to the boil steadily this season by Philippe Demerzel.

While no Arc victory will be more deserved, she may have to settle again for a place as Jolypha provides Pat Eddery with a record-breaking fifth success in the race.

A sister to Dancing Brave and in the care of Europe's top trainer, Andre Fabre, she has gone from strength to strength since winning the French Oaks and has been laid out for tomorrow's race.

Following a three-month break, she put up a brave performance to win the Prix Vermeille last month, quickening off a moderate pace to force ahead in the final 30 yards.

Grant Pritchard-Gordon, racing manager to Khaled Abdulla, who owns Jolypha, was more than hopeful when we spoke at Newmarket this week. "This was always the ultimate objective. She is very well."

I take JOLYPHA to win the Arc and be followed home by Magic Night and User Friendly.



Formidable filly: the triple classic winner User Friendly is a strong British fancy for the Arc tomorrow

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Smart Mellottie primed for repeat success

MARY Revely sent Sharpie to Ascot from her base in Cleveland last Saturday to win the valuable Festival Handicap.

Now she has equally sound prospects of winning another valuable prize, this time at Newmarket, by capturing the William Hill Cambridgeshire again with Mellottie, who is my nap.

His jockey, John Lowe, believes Mellottie is capable of emulating Prince De Galles, the last horse to win it twice, even though it will entail a record weight-carrying performance.

And Lowe should know. Not only did he win this competitive handicap on Mellottie 12 months ago after finishing second on him the

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

year before, he also rode Lethal to victory in 1984. Either side of that initial strike he was placed on Dromes and Release.

With only three races under his belt this season, Mellottie will be much fresher than most, Lowe suggested, and he will be in his element on the current ground.

Like Mellottie, Rambo's Hall, Eclipse, Cumbrian Challenge and Montpelier Boy are all penalised for recent victories, all achieved with considerable aplomb.

It is impossible not to be

impressed by the way that Dromes Hall strode home at Newbury two days ago.

But it was very soft underfoot that day. His chance of repeating his victory of 1989 should be greatly increased by rain.

Reef, who was in such cracking form, early in the season, is another who would appreciate it softer.

In fact, his trainer, Alec Stewart, is contemplating withdrawing him if he considers that the ground has dried out too much.

So far this race has eluded Lester Piggott. Now he teams up with the recent easy Newbury winner Montpelier Boy whose trainer, Lord Huntingdon, is also responsible for Send Table, who is my idea of

Double Entendre. He can still enjoy the occasion by landing a double on Self Assured.

best consider following that promising run at Newbury, which was his first run for four months.

Whenever Mellottie finishes, Double Entendre should not be far away in the care of Willie Carson, who will be riding at his lightest.

A winner four times last season, Double Entendre showed that she is as good as ever at Doncaster last month when beaten a length by Mellottie.

As that was only her second race of the season for her current trainer, Michael Bell, she too will be fresher than most.

No matter how he fares on Double Entendre, Carson can still enjoy the occasion by landing a double on Self Assured (1.55) and Perfect Circle (3.00).

Self Assured, my selection for the Old So Sharp Stakes, was a creditable second in the May Hill Stakes at Doncaster last time, while Perfect Circle, my choice for the Cheveley Park Stud Sun Charitor Stakes, bounced back into form at the same meeting when winning the Seepie Stakes over a mile.

By finishing a good second to All At Sea in the Musidora Stakes at York in May, Perfect Circle proved that today's longer trip is ideal.

She is narrowly preferred to Red Slippers, who also bounced back into prominence at Newcastle last time out when winning the Virginia Stakes in such commanding style.

MARY RELEVY

Relying on the experience of the 1989 winner, I am hoping for a repeat of Mellottie's win

High-level concern over Maktoum cuts

RACING'S rulers were refusing to panic yesterday after the Maktoum family's announcement that they plan to reduce its involvement in the sport in Britain.

The decision to cut back their 800 horses — about 20 per cent of the total bloodstock in training in this country — over the next four years sparked widespread fears that there will be wholesale redundancies and numerous trainers going out of business.

The Jockey Club discussed the matter at the highest level yesterday, with both the chief executive, Christopher Haines, and senior steward, Lord Hartington, keeping abreast of events.

But David Pipe, spokesman for the Jockey Club, said: "There's no need to panic at present — I'm sure it would be wrong to over-emphasise the problems."

"Like other industries, racing is in a recession but it is standing up to it remarkably well."

Pipe added: "We appreciate the Maktoum family's frustrations and we are doing all we can to improve matters. But in the end it's the government, bookmakers and punters who put the money into racing."

There was still no firm indication yesterday on the exact scale of the Maktoum cutbacks.

long
time

FORM FOCUS

3.40 WILLIAM HILL CAMBRIDGESHIRE HANDICAP
(£57,258; 1m 1f (31 runners))

MANDARIN 1.55 Sweet Duke, 2.30 Affidea, 3.00 PERFECT CIRCLE (nap), 4.15 Further Flight, 4.45 Nicer, 5.20 Iron Merchant.

THUNDERER 2.00 Sweet Duke, 2.35 Tipping Tim, 3.10 Cadency, 3.40 Gaeststrom, 4.10 Derab, 4.40 Ballyento.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SS

1.55 OH SO SHARP STAKES (2-Y-O Miles: 25, 952, 77) (7 runners)

MANDARIN 1.55 Sweet Duke, 2.30 Affidea, 3.00 PERFECT CIRCLE (nap), 4.15 Further Flight, 4.45 Nicer, 5.20 Iron Merchant.

THUNDERER 2.00 Sweet Duke, 2.35 Tipping Tim, 3.10 Cadency, 3.40 Gaeststrom, 4.10 Derab, 4.40 Gold Medal.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT PATCHES)

2.00 S W SHOWER SUPPLIER HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,557; 3m 2f (11 runners))

MANDARIN 2.00 Sweet Duke, 2.35 Tipping Tim, 3.10 Cadency, 3.40 Gaeststrom, 4.10 Derab, 4.40 Gold Medal.

THUNDERER 2.00 Sweet Duke, 2.35 Tipping Tim, 3.10 Cadency, 3.40 Gaeststrom, 4.10 Derab, 4.40 Gold Medal.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT PATCHES)

3.40 COURTYARD WALSH BENEFIT NOVICES HURDLE (£5,161; 2m 4f 110yd (11 runners))

MANDARIN 2.00 Sweet Duke, 2.35 Tipping Tim, 3.10 Cadency, 3.40 Gaeststrom, 4.10 Derab, 4.40 Gold Medal.

THUNDERER 2.00 Sweet Duke, 2.35 Tipping Tim, 3.10 Cadency, 3.40 Gaeststrom, 4.10 Derab, 4.40 Gold Medal.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT PATCHES)

4.10 AUTUMN NOVICES CHASE (22,310; 2m 3f 110yd) (10 runners)

MANDARIN 2.00 Sweet Duke, 2.35 Tipping Tim, 3.10 Cadency, 3.40 Gaeststrom, 4.10 Derab, 4.40 Gold Medal.

THUNDERER 2.00 Sweet Duke, 2.35 Tipping Tim, 3.10 Cadency, 3.40 Gaeststrom, 4.10 Derab, 4.40 Gold Medal.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (SOFT PATCHES)

4.40 SOUTH-WEST RACECOURSES SERIES HANDICAP HURDLE (Amateurs: round 1: 2m 4f 110yd) (14 runners)

MANDARIN 2.00 Sweet Duke, 2.35 Tipping Tim, 3.10 Cadency, 3.40 Gaeststrom, 4.10 Derab, 4.40 Gold Medal.

THUNDERER 2.00 Sweet Duke, 2.35 Tipping Tim, 3.10 Cadency, 3.40 Gaeststrom, 4.10 Derab, 4.40 Gold Medal.

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Woosnam leads call for preferred lies

Players are critical of the condition of Stuttgart course

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

IAN Woosnam scored a four-under-par 63 for the second day in succession at the Mercedes German Masters yesterday but that did not stop him criticising the "terrible condition" of the Stuttgart course which has staged the event for the last six years.

"There's so much mud on the fairways," Woosnam said. "I'm here to win a golf tournament and it's a disgrace we don't have preferred lies."

"Under these conditions playing a big tournament like this for a lot of money is just not on. There's £600,000 to play for and it's time we had a decent course. We pay the PGA to do a good job for us and they have let us down. The ball has so much mud on it, it goes sideways. You just cannot play precision golf."

When Woosnam, who described the 2nd, 6th, 7th and 17th holes as being "in a

dreadful state", was reminded that Bernhard Langer was co-promoter of the tournament he added: "I just hope that Bernhard gets a lot of bad lies, then he might do something about it."

In fact, Langer had already asked for preferred lies but the PGA tournament director, Andy McFee, ruled otherwise. "It's my judgment to make and I have decided not to make any change," he said. "I have spoken to a lot of players whose opinion I value and at our annual meeting the clear message was that we did not have preferred lies unless in dire situations. I don't think this is dire enough but we can always review the position if there is more rain."

Despite his complaints, Woosnam lies eighth, only three shots behind the leader, Christy O'Connor Jnr, whose second round of 66 gave him an aggregate of 133. O'Connor also thought there should be preferred lies. "Hitting long irons is a nightmare and some of the lies are pathetic," he said. O'Connor, 44, who was fortunate to miss the afternoon rain, had six birdies on his card.

His only tricky moment came at the short 15th where his tee shot finished just under the lip of a greenside bunker. But he played a masterly sand shot to five feet and rolled in the putt to save par.

Constantino Rocca, of Italy, closed to within a shot of O'Connor with a second round 69 and said that he did not lose any shots due to the conditions.

Great Britain and Ireland were indebted to their two youngest players for salvaging a provisional third place position behind New Zealand and the United States in the first round of the Eisenhower Trophy in Vancouver.

After a mediocre start by Mathew Stanford (71) and Dean Roberson (74) at Marine Drive, Bradley Dredge, 19, and Raymond Burns, 18, sent morale soaring at the Capilano course. The two-under-par 68 posted by Dredge, the first Welshman to make the team, was made by three birdies in the last eight holes. Burns dropped two strokes over the last five holes but still returned a 69.

Clark (62), T Gleeson (Ger), 71, SR M Fraser, 72, T Sherratt (Nz), 72, M Davies, 72, 70, M McFadden, 67, 75, S McNamee, 68, 75, C O'Connor, 67, 72, P Broadhurst, 67, 68; P. P. Broadhurst, 67, 68, R Kartje, 68, 70, 72, 73, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 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80302, 80303, 80304, 80305, 80306, 80307, 80308, 80309, 80310, 80311, 80312, 80313, 80314, 80315, 80316, 80317, 80318, 80319, 80320, 80321, 80322, 80323, 80324, 80325, 80326, 80327, 80328, 80329, 80330, 80331, 80332, 80333, 80334, 80335, 80336, 80337, 80338, 80339, 80340, 80341, 80342, 80343, 80344, 80345, 80346, 80347, 80348, 80349, 80350, 80351, 80352, 80353, 80354, 80355, 80356, 80357, 80358, 80359, 80360, 80361, 80362, 80363, 80364, 80365, 80366, 80367,

Scottish clubs happy with draws

Celtic and Hearts look forward to European success

By RODDY FORSYTH AND LOUISE TAYLOR

CELTIC and Heart of Midlothian both welcomed the Uefa Cup draw which paired them with Borussia Dortmund and Standard Liege respectively. Liam Brady, the Celtic manager, was unperturbed at the thought of meeting German opposition for the second tie in succession.

"It's obviously a very hard tie," Brady said yesterday, "but it will also be an exciting one both for the players and the spectators. Borussia Dortmund are one of the better German sides at the moment and they were just pipped for the league title by Stuttgart last season."

"They have a lot of big-name players such as their forward, Povlsen, who did so well for Denmark during the European championship, Michael Rummenigge — the brother of Karl Heinz Rummenigge — and Stephane Chapuisat, who played for Switzerland against Scotland in the World Cup tie in Berne a couple of weeks ago."

Zoff to delay decision on Gascoigne's fitness

PAUL Gascoigne seems certain to play some part in Lazio's Serie A match against Parma at the Olympic Stadium in Rome tomorrow (Louise Taylor writes). Dino Zoff, the Lazio coach, will leave it until the morning to decide whether Gascoigne will start his second Italian league match on the substitutes' bench or the pitch.

The England international midfield player prompted questions about the extent of his recovery from the knee ligament injury sustained playing for Tottenham Hotspur in the 1991 FA Cup final when he was injured in his Serie A debut in a tackle

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Liverpool's delight at being in the second round of the Cup Winners' Cup was tempered by yesterday's news that their tie with Spartak Moscow cannot be played on the intended date.

The second round first leg in Moscow was planned for Wednesday, October 21, but Spartak's neighbours, CSKA Moscow, are at home to Barcelona in the European Cup and that competition takes precedence.

It dictates that Liverpool must now play on the Tuesday or Thursday — either two days after their televised Premier League match at Manchester United, or two days before another League game with Norwich at Anfield.

A Uefa spokesman yesterday said: "Switching legs is not the answer. Playing at Liverpool first would cause even more problems because two other Moscow clubs — Torpedo and Dynamo — are also still involved in European competition. Liverpool will have to look for the answer by changing domestic fixtures at home." Liverpool's best hope is probably persuading Norwich to play on the Sunday instead of Saturday.

Trevor Francis, the Sheffield Wednesday player-manager, will lead his team against Kaiserslautern in the second round of the Uefa Cup. Kaiserslautern were German champions in 1991.

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with Mario Bortolozzi, of Genoa, last week.

Gascoigne collapsed in agony after being kicked on his troubled right knee, but the damage turned out to be superficial and, whatever happens tomorrow, Zoff has said he will definitely start in Wednesday's Italian cup-tie against Cesena.

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THE TIMES SPORT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3 1992

Rangers await outcome of European Cup confusion

Uefa warns Leeds they may not be reinstated

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE convoluted European Cup tie between Leeds United and VFB Stuttgart took another twist yesterday and may not be unravelled for another week. Whoever eventually emerges from the confusion surrounding the first round tie will play Rangers for a place in the last eight.

Before Leeds can earn the right to feature in only the third meeting between the champions of England and Scotland, they must win at least one and probably two battles. The first is with Uefa's control and disciplinary committee, which is to meet in Zurich this evening. The Leeds representatives will argue that Stuttgart, who have admitted that they breached regulations by choosing four foreigners in their squad for the second leg, were disqualified. Since guilt has already been proven, they justifiably believe that is the only verdict which can properly be reached.

The unprecedented case is unlikely to be resolved so simply. Leeds, for instance, were not even included in yesterday's second round draw. According to Gerhard Aigner, the Uefa secretary, they were omitted "because for the moment, we cannot speculate on what may happen".

Obviously, another spokesman warned that Leeds are not assured of a merciful hearing. "There are no guarantees that they will get another chance," Rudi Rothenbuhler said. "We have

not told them that they are certain to be reinstated. It is up to the committee."

Apart from excluding Stuttgart, Uefa considers that it has three other options. The first, that the result stands (Leeds won 4-1 at Elland Road and, with the aggregate score standing at 4-4, were knocked out on the away goals rule), is so improbable that it can be discounted.

The authority of Europe's governing body would be seen to be wholly undermined. The second choice, that the second leg is rendered invalid and should be replayed, is scarcely more acceptable. Uefa would then be open to accusations of ignoring a rule it wrote only a few months ago.

The third is expected to be regarded as the most logical, if not by Leeds. Stuttgart will be ordered to forfeit the second leg 3-0, the punishment im-

posed in the past on clubs found to have contravened regulations. Since the aggregate score would be 3-3, a third match would have to be staged.

Where and when, though? Although Leeds insist that they should act as the hosts, the appropriate venue would be determined by Uefa's organising committee, which could not be assembled until Monday, and it is expected to favour a stadium in a neutral country. Security and travel arrangements would pose enough problems, but Uefa would also have to find a suitable date before the first leg of the second round on October 21. Leeds are prepared to meet Stuttgart on Wednesday and postpone the second leg in their Coca-Cola Cup tie against Scunthorpe United.

To assist England's preparations for the World Cup qualifying tie against Norway on October 14, there are no Premier League fixtures next weekend and Uefa has noted the convenient gap. Should it be filled, Batty and Dorrig would be unable to report with the rest of their international colleagues.

A third game would be lucrative; the teams would share the gate receipts after the deduction of organisational costs) and decisive. Extra time and, if necessary, penalties will be used and Uefa could run into still further complications should Leeds go through to the next round.

In the draw, Stuttgart were seeded eighth, an honour which would have been ac-



Smith: cautious

Looking to cash in on £5m

By IAN ROSS

WITH a degree of predictability which was, perhaps, understandable, the administrators of Leeds United yesterday turned their thoughts to matters of a fiscal nature.

The club's reinstatement into this season's European Cup has reopened the tantalising prospect of financial rewards unprecedented in the history of British football.

If Leeds were to reach the final, they could expect to collect in excess of £5 million. Indeed, simply by reaching

the last eight, which is now run on a two-group World Cup-style league system, they could confidently expect to bank £4 million from television fees, gate receipts, sponsorship and advertising revenue.

"To be honest, at this stage, it is nothing more than numbers and estimates," Leslie Silver, the Leeds chairman, said. "The European Cup is Uefa's major tournament and is structured in a manner which ensures that it receives maximum exposure.

"I have heard all sorts of

figures being bandied about since we won the League championship last May. Sums ranging from £2 million to £6 million have been mentioned but I will believe it when I see it," he added.

Although Leeds are thought to have already grossed around £750,000 from the two fixtures against Stuttgart, Maxwell Holmes, a director, was swift to emphasise that the transformation of the Yorkshire club had proved costly.

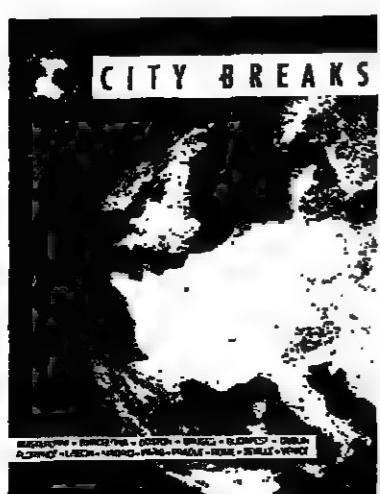
"A combination of Howard Wilkinson and some excellent new players were instrumental in making us champions but it did cost us a great deal of money," he said. "Of course, it goes without saying that the further we progress in the European Cup the more money we will earn. It is true that there are enormous sums to be earned."

If, today, Uefa do instruct Leeds and Stuttgart to meet again in an unprecedented third and deciding tie, it will probably be staged at Elland Road next Wednesday.

"If it is applicable, we will confirm a date after Uefa's announcement over the weekend," a Football Association spokesman said. "If a third game, at Elland Road, is required, it seems likely to be staged next Wednesday, which would mean rescheduling Leeds' Coca-Cola Cup tie against Scunthorpe United."

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Cuba places future in safe hands

ECONOMICALLY, times are hard in Cuba. It can no longer depend on the former Soviet Union for petrol, food and medical supplies and is under trade embargo from the United States. Yet sport is flourishing, according to Alberto Juantorena, the 1976 Olympic 400 and 800 metres champion, now vice-president of the national sports institute.

Cuba finished ahead of Britain in the athletics medals table at the Barcelona Olympic Games and won seven golds in boxing. In the country's biggest sport, baseball, Cuba are world amateur and Olympic champions.

The success story will grow, Juantorena says: "The East German-style sports school system will see to it, poverty or not. "Nothing is nobler than sport," Fidel Castro said at

the Pan-American Games last year. What does Peter Brook think?

"One of the first things we did after the revolution was eliminate pro sports," Juantorena said. "We do it for pride and health. Every child in school has eight hours physical education a day, obligatory like maths and history. The best of them go into the Initiation Schools. We have 15, with 14,000 students."

But how can Cuba, whose capital, Havana, carries the stench of poverty in the streets, afford it? "We have many trainers — in volleyball, athletics, table tennis, basketball and baseball — working in other countries and they send the money back," Juantorena said.

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Without a strong raft and a following wind, few nationals escape Cuba. Top sportsmen must stay where they are, despite big offers. Montreal Expos tried for Omar Linares, Cuba's leading baseball player, with a \$1 million-a-year offer, but the government said no. So the coaches who send back the money are the lucky ones.

Juantorena's pay is 400 pesos a month, officially \$50

on the government exchange, but because traders prefer the international cloud of dollars and they are hard to come by, the black market demands 40 pesos for each one. Linares is on just over 200 pesos a month, about three quid — the cost of a three-minute phone call from Havana to London.

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Baton change
Money may be in short supply on this Caribbean island, but you don't need it to be a spectator. All sports' admission is free. Even watching the World Cup last weekend came without charge. Mind you, the dogs are taking hospitality too far.

One ended up, uninvited, on the last leg of the 4x400 metres. He gave up at 250 metres. Probably realised he'd forgotten the baton.

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TELEVISION
AND RADIO.
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SATURDAY OCTOBER 3 1992

Beyond the angels' trampoline

On a wine tour of Chile earlier this year, Ralph Steadman recorded in words and pictures his 'kaleidoscopic battering'

February 24 1992: The weather is balmy, without humidity, and is very comfortable. People have a gentle disposition and dark hair predominates. I am the only white-haired balding person on the bus we are taking to Valparaiso. The architecture is either modern or jerry-built with a few scattered pieces of colonial elegance, lonely and dust-laden among the cheap signs of old shops and decorations painted directly on to brick walls.

The roads are jammed with blocks of buses trying to negotiate traffic lights, which only incense the Latin temperament. Horns blast and orchestrate the tempos of drivers to a crescendo going nowhere. Relax. It's not too hot; relax. Nothing lasts forever. The bus lurches every five minutes and we descend into hell through the seven stages of purgatory. Was it William Burroughs I saw shuffling along in Valparaiso?

February 25: Today the Andes don't exist. We drive two hours on the Pan-American Highway through heavy mist, and visibility is about 200 yards. Beyond is just a white background — nothing. The Andes could be a myth, or a huge theatrical cardboard backdrop. We drive through the Maipo valley at the narrowest point in all of Chile: a mere 90 kilometres (56 miles) from the Argentine border to the sea.

Anna [Steadman's wife] produces a polythene carrier bag full of watercolours, pens and inks. I fumble expertly and open up a box of watercolours, call for water and pursue a line of hopeless endeavour which normally I would abandon and start again. But this is Pedro's new book, and Pedro is expecting magic. Someone brings me a cup of coffee so that goes on to Pedro's book too. Who knows, this may be the stuff of magic.

Sefora Grand comes over and is obviously an expressostriat freak. She loves the effects of moving pools of Cabernet Sauvignon and black coffee. Pedro relishes.

February 28: Today we are moving north up the Pan-American Highway. The day starts well. Anna has packed in the early hours for some restless reason and quite by accident commits an act of mindless terrorism. She packs my carefully blended stash of whisky. Somehow, the cork is not in the bottle, even though the bottle is in its box. The whole lot glints into our underwear, and whatever else is in what we euphemistically call our overnight bag. In the lobby we can disguise it no longer. My breath smells of garlic from the plate of baby eels I consumed last night, and the lobby reeks like a wine's doorway. I am in a state of shock.

The journey does its best to distract me. There are mountains from one end to the other. The horizon of the whole of Chile is a mountain range. Goats are reared here among the rocky desert terrain, living off the tough scrub. Then they are slaughtered and offered for sale to passing motorists. We pass a river, and the locals offer



Artist's impression: Ralph Steadman painted as he travelled, but wrote: "What I am seeing can never feel like reality, particularly afterwards. I will never believe it completely."

nurtured and passed on to a still sceptical world.

Our hostess, Señora Grand, rings her little bell and the next course is served. The Grands have been together 35 years and they obviously run a comfortable operation. Pedro crafts woodwork of the highest quality and has knocked up all of their exquisite "antiques".

When their sumptuous Visitors' Book is produced for me to be let loose on, I foolishly get bogged down trying to capture something of the magic all around us. I start with a ballpoint and fountain pen. So far so good, then impulsively I pour a half glass of wine over the page — the improvement doesn't last long, and dribbles off the page and down the book's solid wad of virgin paper. My host looks nervous. I need colour, I explain. Don't worry, it's not finished yet. He smiles wanly, like someone who has just swallowed an oyster for the first time and is asked if he liked it.

Anna [Steadman's wife] produces a polythene carrier bag full of watercolours, pens and inks. I fumble expertly and open up a box of watercolours, call for water and pursue a line of hopeless endeavour which normally I would abandon and start again. But this is Pedro's new book, and Pedro is expecting magic. Someone brings me a cup of coffee so that goes on to Pedro's book too. Who knows, this may be the stuff of magic.

Tiny shacks, the personification of frightening loneliness, stand out like protest. The shacks declare the futile defiance of man against the odds. Lights glow from within, telling us that someone exists inside these pathetic pieces of real estate like mice in discarded packing cases. How a human being can endure such desolation and still find a reason for living is too oppressive to understand. Maybe Moses led his people to this place and not to the Holy Land. Some left, but a few stalwart believers stayed. Their scattered descendants remained in their promised land, waiting for salvation.

February 29: An early morning swim sets the mood for this leap year day. Today we will reach the Atacama Desert, the object of our journey. The conquistadors had travelled this whole expanse and survived to conquer.

Just between Caldera and Chanaral we come across an extraordinary shrine among garrigue rock forms, like a giant graveyard. The shrine of Santa Gertrudis has steps to its top with crude radiating sticks and a flag. A cross has been fashioned out of wood, and old car number plates,

painted silver, create a rich patina of shapes miraculously avoiding the kiss that religious shrines often employ. The place emanates an aura of mystery and dark ages. The stones have many eyes and many faces. The spirits of the stones speak sombre thoughts, walking between them animates their shapes. It is nature's own sculpture exhibition. Both God and the Devil were at the opening.

We enter the real desert in the height of the afternoon. The bleached aridity shines and glistens in the sun and smoulders in a dust-and-ochre haze. Vultures glide aimlessly along the single goods rail track, black against the light ochre. You can see them for miles — and they can see you.

The earth turns redder and scorched, rather like the inside of a furnace where the fire stones have been burnt in different shades of temperature. The shapes get deeper and fold into rucks, holding their shape from the time they first cooled and lost any fluidity for eternity.

In the mid-afternoon heat, the Valley of the Moon draws us inexorably towards it, but only because we have decided to go there. The road becomes a sharp-edged track and a craggy, rock-formed access. In a four-wheel-drive Jeep with thick tyres there is a 50-50 chance that you could make the journey back again. In a two-wheel-drive Honda with thin treads, your chances of a return journey to some form of life on earth are reduced to a 5-7 against bet, with odds in your favour. Only because the bookies would feel sure they would never see you again.

The only things that make the journey seem like a reasonable risk

are the confidence of our driver, Douglas Murray, who hails from these parts, and the certain knowledge that there is actually life at the end of this stone track in a village called San Pedro de Atacama. All around us the landscape says "No". No, there is nothing beyond here, nothing but the brutal denial of warm existence. Not even the odd scorpion or a lean snake with an interesting bite.

The real problem, however, is the landscape. Its changing forms are so diverse that you feel sure that just round the corner there is another surprise that makes the whole tortuous experience worthwhile. Your mind transports you to the surface of the moon and, to maintain your sanity throughout the kaleidoscopic battering, you think of Mars, too.

The earth turns redder and scorched, rather like the inside of a furnace where the fire stones have been burnt in different shades of temperature. The shapes get deeper and fold into rucks, holding their shape from the time they first cooled and lost any fluidity for eternity.

But you are both there, a living testament to each other's existence, and while he has grown used to such weirdness you have only just

began to absorb the desolation. There is no sanctuary here, nor pity. You are alone, even with friends. This is no picnic site. This is the end. You are face to face with nature's absolute disregard for you or your well-being. You are there on account of your own impulses and you are there to test yourself against the pressure of loneliness that such a desert exerts.

Through a rock entrance you turn a corner and there before you, shimmering in the heat, are the three wise men turned to stone — a configuration of rocks. The strangeness of the myriad changes and constant variety of rock forms draws you in. Sulphurous shades and an almost suffocating dryness hypnotise the brain. Breathing is short and difficult. The air is hot and thin. Odd gusts of desert wind whine mysteriously in the quietness. Some way off a whirlwind goes by, an intangible moving shape on the landscape.

Complex attempts at creative photography occupy my mind best and I fiddle with filters, smear inks on to clear plastic and complicate the vision in front of my eyes. Random experiments, impulsive and extreme, are merely a confused response to something already too weird to improve upon. But to try, just because I am here, is all that matters. A photograph is too fundamentally literal, a matter-of-fact record of natural fiction. What I am seeing can never feel like reality, particularly afterwards. I will never believe it completely. It will always be a dream, a walk on the widest side of nature.

• The Grapes of Wrath by Ralph Steadman is published by Ebury Press on October 15, price £14.99.

• See page 5 for the best Chilean wines.

REAR VIEW p18



Blinking in the sunlight, Lynne Truss reports on the Prix Italia

FOOD AND DRINK p4



The making of a master chef:
Pierre Koffman's road to his Tante Claire

long
time
timer

Bachelors, spinsters and the benefits of the natural method

Making a pass isn't easy, especially if you think you are past it

set, introduced by a network of brothers or sisters.

My elderly friend had never married because, despite being attractive, she was an only child whose parents lived army lives in Kenya while she lived in London. With no family network and no job, the years rolled by, and each year she was still single.

"I could obviously get men," she says. "I used to meet them at parties but then I would never meet them again in a natural context unless I set something up. There was always so much pressure. People would invite



WEEKEND
Voice
Mary
Killen

me to dinner with a spare man who might well have liked me, but it was always make or break, and if one didn't fall violently in love on the first meeting then one always had

to set up a second meeting, which put pressure on us as we each knew that we would not see each other again unless we fell in love. If we had had time to get to know each other naturally, I am sure I would have married one of these men."

Having begun to compile a suitable list of eligible spinsters, I started joking about setting up an agency to introduce the sets to one another. I never really would do this, but I was inundated with deadly serious requests to do so from both men and women, and almost daily someone

will ring me to advise me of another "top" spinner or bachelor who lists to join my list.

Where will it end? I have introduced five or six pairs of people to one another, and they have liked each other. There has been one regrettable incident where the lips of the couple concerned did meet, but then the man decided that, though he liked the woman, he found her indecisiveness and compulsive lateness too irritating to consider her as a permanent partner. These bachelors get a bit crusty if they have lived on their own after the age of 30.

Of the others, well, they fancy each other in theory, but when you get to a certain age, making a pass becomes embarrassing. For men especially, pass-making is so fraught with the horrors of rejection that many of them are simply not prepared to do it. Only if they have indisputable evidence that the woman definitely fancies them will they have the nerve to make it a lips-on relationship.

There are two couples I am monitoring at the moment. All concerned clearly fancy their partner, but each is reluctant to make the first overture. When I press them, they come up with excuses about how they are not really suited to one another, yet I am perfectly sure that if they were trapped together in a lift everything would be OK.

I am trying to find a way of bringing this about.

"An engine that moves
In predestinate grooves."

Writing earlier this century about trams, M.E. Hare could hardly have devised a more apt description of the automaton. During the 1890s, these reached new levels of mechanical sophistication. Today, fine pieces like this Roulet et Decamps waltzing cat, to be sold at Sotheby's in November, can command thousands of pounds at auction.

If you have any similar automata, toys or dolls that you might be interested in selling please contact our resident expert for free valuations, advice and any further information regarding our next sale in January.



CLOSING DATE FOR THIS SALE: 31ST OCTOBER.

Our sale in January will include fine toys, dolls, teddy bears, costume, music boxes and automata. If you would like to include your own pieces in this sale, please contact Jon Baddeley on (071) 408 5205 as soon as possible.

THE WORLD'S LEADING FINE ART AUCTION HOUSE
SOTHEBY'S
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THEATRE

LONDON

THE BEST MAN: Trouble ahead for a groom nostalgic for the Sixties and a bride-to-be who's not so sure. New play by author of the excellent office-play *Street as a Nut*.

Warehouse Theatre, Dingwall Road, East Croydon (081-690 4060). Previews from Fri, 3pm.

COLONIUM AND MACBRYDE: Sometimes witty but hollow study of two Fitzcryan painters who drink heavily and are now forgotten.

Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Ariel Dorval's scorching psychological drama on the longing for revenge. Penny Downie, Danny Webb and Hugh Ross make up the cast.

Duke of York's St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

Richard Bonneville in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*

THE DYBBUK: Keir Mitchell's thrillingly convincing Hassidic community where the supernatural preses on in all sides. Joanne Pearce superb as the girl possessed.

The Pit, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Today, 2pm, 7.15pm.

THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA: Dinah Stabb plays the grim mother in Katie Mitchell's production of Lorca's last play. New translation by Matthew Banks.

Gate, 11 Pembridge Road, W1 (071-229 0706). Previews Wed, Thurs, 7.30pm; Opens Fri, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm.

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Stephen Daldry's astonishingly powerful resurrection of Priestley's drama of social responsibility.

National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Tues-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Wed, Sat, 2.15pm.

THE INVISIBLE MAN: A cracking revival of last year's production, prior to a West End run. Amazing stage tricks devised by Paul Kieve.

Theatre Royal, Garry Rafferty Square, Stratford, E15 (081-534 0310). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, 2pm.

IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY: Larks in the hospital common room; matron outraged; doctors flummoxed. Ray Cooney farce with lots of laughs.

Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-635 4401). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Thurs, 8pm, Sat, 5.30pm.

JUKE MOON: Native songwriter conquers Tin Pan Alley. Delightful comedy by Ring Lardner and George S. Kaufman. Excellent cast led by Adam Godley and Frank Lazarus.

Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (071-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN: Chita Rivera is the vamp in Harold Prince's production of the Kander & Ebb musical, based on the celebrated play about fantasists in a prison cell.

Shakespeare, Shafesbury Avenue, WC2 (071-375 5399). Previews from Thurs, 8pm.

THE MADRAS HOUSE: Roger Allam heads a strong cast in Granville Barker's proto-feminist, serious comedy, set in a fashion house.

Lyric Hammersmith, King Street, W6 (081-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. Last week.

MEDIA: Diana Rigg gives a cool, distancing interpretation in Euripides' revenge drama.

Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (071-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

PERRIER PICK OF THE CHINESE: More goodies from Edinburgh. Second week's programme: stand-up comedy from Kevin Day — or What? (Tues, Wed, next Sat, 7.30pm); drollly unhelpful hints in John Shuttleworth's Guide to Stardom (Tues, Thurs, next Sat, 9.15pm); Ben Miller's search for the lost legend, Gove in Noakes (Thurs, Fri, 7.30pm); Bruce Montague's guide to the Seven Deadly Sins (Wed, Fri, 9.15pm); Purcell Room, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 8800).

POST MORTEM: First professional performance of Noel Coward's 1930 play, large cast led by Sylvia Sims, with Harry Burton as the ghost of her soldier son.

King's Head, 115 Upper Street, London

N (071-226 1916). Opens Tues, 7.30pm. Then Tues-Sat, 8pm, Sun, 3.30pm.

THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE: Terrific performance by Alison Steadman as the raucous slattern in Jim Cartwright's play about dreams, shyness and horrible mothers.

National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Mon-Wed, 7.30pm, mat Tues, 2.30pm.

SONNE WILLL WATCH OVER ME: Excellent playing by Alec McCowen, James McDaniel and Stephen Rea as Beirut hostages in Frank McGuinness's new play.

Vaudeville, The Strand, WC2 (071-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Tues, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

THE STREET OF CROCODILES: Théâtre de Complicité presents the nightmare world of Bruno Schulz. Amazing effects, bewildering storyline.

National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Thurs-Sat, 7.30pm, mat next Sat, 2.30pm.

DON'T MOVE, DIE AND RISE AGAIN! (12): Memories of post-war life in Soviet Asia. Uneven, sometimes aggravating, with a fine child performance (Pavel Navarov). Director, Vitali Karavets.

National Film Theatre (071-928 3232).

EAT FOOD LODGINGS (15): Emotional lives of a waitress and two daughters in New Mexico. Good-looking and well acted. Fairuz Balk, Brooke Adams, Ione Skye; director, Alison Lander.

Munro (071-437 0757) MGM Putney Road (071-370 2630) Renoir (071-837 8402).

HOUSESITTER (PG): Goldie Hawn moves into architect Steve Martin's dream house and poses as his wife. A few bright spots; mostly very trying. Director, Frank Oz.

MGM Baker Street (071-935 9772) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Oxford Street (071-636 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-438 0631) Plaza (071-897 9999) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

TWO THE GENTLEMEN OF VERONA: Wonderfully funny production by David Thacker. A tonic for the autumn.

Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Previews from Thurs, 7.15pm.

VALENTINIE'S DAY: Shaw's You Never Can Tell with music added and a libretto by Benny Green.

Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5055). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

WHO SHALL I BE TOMORROW? Joanna Lumley plays an out-of-work actress doing rounds in Bernard Kops's two-hander. With Harry Landis.

Greenwich, Croons Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm.

A WOMAN NO IMPORTANCE: Philip Prowse's triumphant RSC production. John Carlisle as a callous aristocrat in Wilde's social melodrama faced with wife.

Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 3800). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

REGIONAL

GLASGOW: Autumn season continues with a modern retelling of *Venice and Adonis* where the mortal would rather be left alone (Thierry Thébaud, preview Tues, opens Wed), *Not About Heroes*, Stephen MacDonald's fine drama of the meeting between Wilfried Owen and a confirmed Saxon (Second Theatre, preview Wed, opens Thurs); *Sweet Bird of Youth*, Tennessee Williams's first stage success (First Theatre, preview Thurs, opens Fri, Critic's Circle, Gorbals (041-428 0022), Tues-Sun, 7.30pm).

LOVERS (18): In Franco's Spain, Victoria Abril derails her lodger's intended marriage. Excellent tale of mad love, expertly mounted by director Vicente Aranda.

MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561) Mifrena (071-235 4225).

MY FATHER IS COMING (16): Experiences of a German girl trying to make it in New York. Sweet, generous, alive to sexual subcultures; directed by German film-maker Monika Treut.

PATRIOT GAMES (15): Harrison Ford's family comes under attack from an IRA cell. Absurd thriller from Tom Clancy's novel. Anne Archer, Patrick Bergin; director, Philip Noyce.

Barbican (071-638 8891)

CAMDEN PARKWAY (071-267 7034) Empire (071-497 9999) MGM Baker Street (071-935 9772) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Trocadero (071-438 0631) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

THE PLAYER (15): Dazzling satire on Hollywood, directed by Robert Altman from Michael Tolkin's novel. Tim Robbins as the studio executive who kills a writer; plus cameos galore.

MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeon: Kensington (0426 914666) Mezzanine (0426 915632).

SECRET FRIENDS (18): Alan Bates cracks up under the strain of writer-director Dennis Potter's sexual obsessions. Horribly tedious; Gina Bellini, Frances Barber.

MGM Tottenham Court (081-614 6148) Odeon: Kensington (0426 914666).

SWOON (18): The Leopold and Loeb murder case, explored from a gay perspective. Highly seductive and stimulating first feature by American video artist Tom Kalin.

Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) 704 (071-437 0757).

UNFORGIVEN (15): Clint Eastwood's mellowed gunman is forced to resurrect his lethal skills. Marvelously resonant, reflective Western. Gene Hackman, David Freeman, Richard Harris.

Camden Plaza (071-435 2443)

EMPIRE (071-999 9999) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Haymarket (071-352 0596) Odeon: Kensington (0426 914666).

WHITE HORSE (071-434 0310) Notting Hill Coronet (071-935 2765) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2727) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

BONOBOS (15): Lively spoof documentary about a right-wing folk-singer's dirty battle for a seat in the US Senate. Entertaining, directional debut by actor Tim Robbins.

MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Odeon: Kensington (0426 914666).

CARRY ON COLUMBUS (PG): Unwise revival of the series, with mildewed jokes and a cast mostly lacking the old friendly faces. Jim Dale, Maureen Lipman, Sara Crowe; director, Gerald Thomas. Odeon Leicester Square (0426 915683).

CITY OF JOY (12): American doctor Patrick Swayze rediscovered his

calling in Calcutta's slums as he helps Pauline Collins run a clinic for the poor. Strong on atmosphere; weaker on character and plot. Director, Roland Joffé.

MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-636 2793/79 7025) MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

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WHITE HORSE (071-4

OUT OF TOWN

Anxious, lonely wait for the patter of tiny hoofs

As I write, I stand at the foot of the last peak to be scaled before I can truly call myself a traditional farmer. I have harnessed horses and learnt to plough, lambed sheep, grown corn and built haystacks. But I have never milked a cow. My first victim stands unaware that an amateurish pair of hands is about to assault her most delicate and providing parts.

This was not what I had planned. On Saturday a local farmer retired and an auction was being held of his lifetime's farming possessions. I planned a late breakfast, a quick fling of the swill at the pigs, and the rest of the day in gentle bidding. The cow decided otherwise.

I rounded the corner of the barn heading for the pigs, heavy swill buckets in each hand. I glanced across to the cow meadow, as I do every morning, and counted the stock. There should be three red bubs, the Red Poll cattle, and one

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

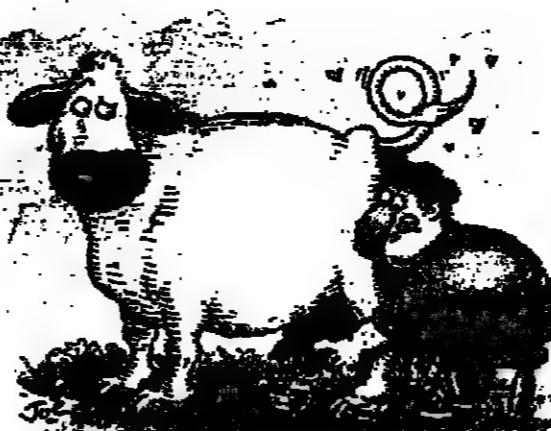


radiant white beacon. Sage, the British White cow. But the corner of my eye caught not one white blob but two. The first was Sage, the other no more than a white smudge in the grass. I reassured myself that it could not possibly be her calf, which was not due for three more weeks, but feeling uneasy I strode across the field to inspect what I hoped would turn out to be a stray fertiliser bag that had drifted along on the breeze.

I got nearer it was clear that this was no rubbish; this was a calf with the *interest* grasp on life. Sage licked it and nudged it but it did not rise to its feet or open its eyes. It breathed with a rasping gasp. I ran back to the house, mind racing, and tried to phone my network of

advisers. Alas, they were all at the farm sale, except faithful Dilly, who said he would miss the first few items to give me a hand.

I lifted the calf, which was heavy despite its pathetic limpness, and summing up all my strength, carried it across the meadow towards the farmyard. Sage followed, anxious and moaning for her newborn son. I carried him half the way but could go no further, and lowered him gently to the ground, where his mother gave him a reassuring lick. Then, with an unaccustomed strength born of desperation, I heaved him once again into my arms and staggered to the yard, where I laid him on the straw in the warm sunshine, and took a good look at him. He looked



a fine specimen, but half dead. I felt only a mother can provide. But he could neither stand nor suck. We had to milk Sage. We haltered her with a bowl from the kitchen. Dilly relieved his golden days as a

herdsman. She kicked him. He persisted. Show this man a wild buffalo and he would have a pint of milk out of it within the half-hour. Squirt by squirt, kick by kick, Sage gave us a cupful, which we poured down the calf. She had no more to give when Dilly left for the auction.

"Bid for the thrashing ladder," I shouted as he departed.

I was now on my own with a calf I was determined should not die. I knew it needed colostrum — the very early milk — from its mother: a couple of pints at least. I rang a farming neighbour, only to be told that she had thrown away six pints last week.

The calf weakened by the minute. In desperation I scanned my books and found a recipe to be used in such circumstances: boiled milk, warm water, egg, castor oil and cod liver oil. I mixed them, dosed the limp little calf and was rewarded with an opening of the eyes and a

raising of the head. The vet came and injected him with some protective medicine, and I then let him rest and be licked by his mother, and waited for her udder to fill.

Dilly got back from the sale and reported that just as the bidding was getting brisk for the thrashing ladder, the auctioneer trod on it and broke it.

It is now late at night and the calf is no weaker. Every pint of warm, though ordinary, milk pushes him a step further along the road to the moment when he can stand up and suck. Meanwhile it is up to me.

He is now lying on straw under the ruddy glow of a heat-lamp, and in the gloom at the other end of the building I can see the ghostly white outline of his mother, checking on me. Her udder, I notice, is filling. I never anticipated that when I grasped hold of a cow's teats for the first time so much would depend on it.

On the trail of animal cruelty

The RSPCA is encouraging children to learn about its undercover operations — and have fun. Jane Bidder reports

One of the most exciting moments in 15-year-old Eleanor Ridge's life was getting up at 5.30am for a wild bird walk in Norfolk this summer. During the expedition, which was part of an RSPCA week's residential holiday camp for children, Eleanor spotted sparrow-hawks, goldfinches and skylarks. "It was like entering a secret den, the rest of the world was asleep but there was all this amazing wildlife up and about," she says.

Eleanor, from Enfield, north London, says she can now spot about 20 different varieties of birds, and is one of 70,000 children, from toddlers to 11-year-olds, who belong to the RSPCA's Animal Action Club. This month the club is touring Britain as part of the society's first Animal Squad Undercover Roadshow, to demonstrate the work of the society's Special Operations Unit, which tracks down animal cruelty. (A linked Channel 4 series, *Animal Squad Undercover*, starts on Monday at 9pm — see Lynne Truss's preview on page 18.)

"Obviously we have to be careful not to frighten children, so some of the equipment at the roadshow, such as cockfighting spurs, is placed above their eye level," says Penny Holden, an RSPCA education officer. "But older children are very interested: for example, we have a mock-up scene depicting the cramped conditions which sheep have to endure on trips along European motorways."

"Teenagers will be fascinated by the secret work of our inspectors, who have the ability to appear unobtrusive in any company in order to catch the culprits."

Cracking an animal cruelty case can take months of investigation, using concealed video cameras, before proof is discovered. But the RSPCA, which set up its Special Operations Unit in 1977 to monitor illegal animal practices, has already brought 227 dog-fighting offences to book, made the first prosecution of fox-baiting, and trailed 708 British sheep on a 44-hour journey to an Italian abattoir.

Such grim statistics may make us adults wince but teenagers such as

the clubs, which meet monthly on local levels, also offer bronze, silver and gold Care Awards. To achieve the first, children must answer animal care questions; for the silver, they have to take up an animal project, such as studying a wild animal in the garden; and for the gold (aimed at 14-year-olds and over) there is a practical exercise, such as working for a vet.

Brothers Christopher and Robert Garwood, aged thirteen and ten, have already started working towards their bronze award. So far, they have been on three club outings: to a nature reserve, to the RSPCA animal hospital in Putney, southwest London, and to a London city farm. "I can't wait to go on the next trip," Robert says.

• The new RSPCA holiday — "Horse Riding animal tracks" — is at Llandrindod Wells, Mid Wales, Oct 25-31, price £185. The course, which is open to non-riders, teaches over-eights to care for their ponies and includes night riding by torchlight. The holiday is open to members only but newcomers can apply to join at the same time. Write to the RSPCA at Conway, Horsham, Sussex RH12 1HG. The roadshow itinerary is available from the same address.



Learning to care: holiday camps are organised for young members of the RSPCA's Animal Action Club

Male impala maintain harems. It is one of the longest-running myths about the bush: perhaps there is something about the limpid eyes and gorgeous, sinuous bodies that gives rise to the notion of adoring, submissive females crowding around and yielding to the masterful male.

But this is a fantasy, one that says more about its perpetrators than about antelopes. They have a much more subtle way of life. Every year, down here in the Luangwa valley in Zambia, impala civilisation breaks down, and every year it must be rebuilt. And in this, the most severe drought that anyone in the valley can remember, impala civilisation seems more fragmented than ever before.

There is a tendency for short-term visitors to curl the lip at impala. Everyone is crazy to see one and leopard, so they ignore the antelope. They are so much a part

BUSH
TELEGRAPH
Simon Barnes

of daily life in the valley that people simply cease to see them. But I say that a person who is tired of the impala is tired of life.

Impala are the quintessential antelope. Their legs are slim as pencils, the fawn coats are artfully set off with touches of jet, and the horns of the male are a bizarre and fanciful lyre shape.

They are incapable of doing anything without grace. When they feel threatened, the entire herd reacts. Each beast performs wild and extravagant leaps in every direction. They can leap 10ft high and 30ft along.

It is a sudden, eye-baffling confusion — deliberately so. It provokes a moment's hesitation in the predator, and — sometimes — that is

enough. A good leap also conveys the message: "I am so athletic, it is a waste of time chasing me."

During the wet season, the impala are scattered all over this enormous park. But in the dry season, they come down from the slopes and congregate near the river and drinking water. And so impala civilisation collapses.

Civilisation is based not on harems, but on territories, and on females who come and go as they please. Bands of females wander at will across the valley, and each territorial male seeks to keep the female in his own patch for as long as possible.

But it is an exhausting business. It requires constant vigilance and constant chasing. In the end,

the females move on, or the male, unable to get enough to eat as he frantically rounds up his females for the hundredth time that day, is displaced by a thrusing and eager rival, fit, fat and ready.

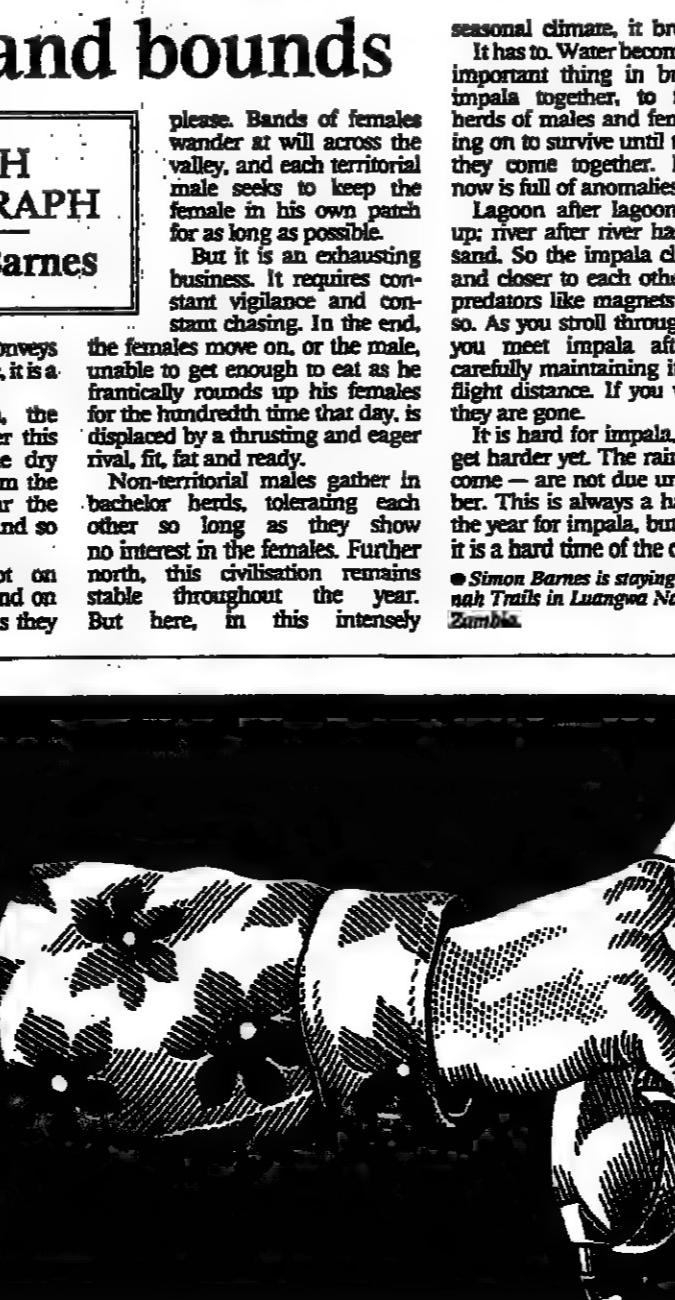
Non-territorial males gather in bachelor herds, tolerating each other so long as they show no interest in the females. Further north, this civilisation remains stable throughout the year. But here, in this intensely

seasonal climate, it breaks down. It has to. Water becomes the most important thing in bringing the impala together, to form large herds of males and females hanging on to survive until the rains. If they come together, impala life is now full of anomalies.

Lagoon after lagoon has dried up; river after river has turned to sand. So the impala cluster closer and closer to each other, drawing predators like magnets as they do so. As you stroll through the bush you meet impala after impala, carefully maintaining its 100-yard flight distance. If you violate that, they are gone.

It is hard for impala, and it will get harder yet. The rains — if they come — are not due until November. This is always a hard time of the year for impala, but right now, it is a hard time of the century.

• Simon Barnes is staying with Sonnenkop Trails in Luangwa National Park, Zambia.



Feather report

Colourful teal make a splash

long are timer

Ducks can be too domestic to excite some birdwatchers; paddling around placidly or going "up-tail-all" in the pond on the green. But the ducks that come to winter in Britain are wilder creatures, splashing down on some east coast pool or stretch of sea after a long flight from Siberia.

It is a good moment when the teal first appear on reedy lakes or quiet rivers in the autumn. Most of these early arrivals are British birds which have nested on the moors — but they, too, are wild creatures. Start them feeding in shallow water under the sallows and the whole flock rises and shoots through the branches like a single arrow. Come back later, and you find that they have silently returned.

Teal are among the most beautiful of the ducks, which is saying something as the duck family is an altogether handsome group. The drakes have chestnut heads with a curious comma-shaped band of green through the eye, and a brilliant emerald-green patch, or speculum, on the wing. The females also have the luminous green wing patch, and an overall silvery gleam in their plumage.

Like most ducks out of the breeding season, teal take life in a leisurely way. As long as the water is not frozen, there is always plenty of weed to eat, or seeds floating on the surface. When they have fed, they lounge around, preening themselves on muddy banks under low willow branches, or sleep on the water, head tucked under wing.

As winter goes on, the drakes start calling. There is no bird note quite like this: it is half-whisper and sounds now like a whistle, now like a soft bell note. Sometimes a reedbed seems alive with the faint, clamorous sound.

Teal are surface-feeding ducks, as opposed to the diving ducks. But that is not an entirely accurate description as they sometimes "up-end" and search for food with their heads under the water.

A particularly vigorous up-ender is the gadwall, a plainer duck which is most noticeable for its black tail. A party of gadwall all up-ending is like a fleet of small black sails.

Wigeon, shoveler, pintail and mallard are all surface-feeders. I always feel that wigeon are peculiarly hunting birds, perhaps because I associate them with early-morning winter mist over a lake, with their sharp whistles — "whoou, whoou" — ringing through it.

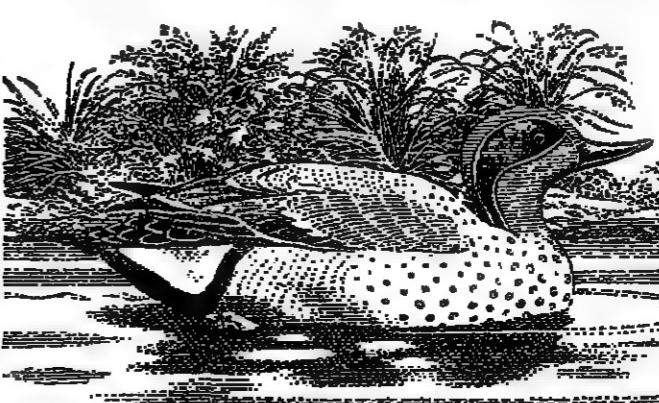
As the mist clears you see them, now full of anomalies.

So the impala cluster closer and closer to each other, drawing predators like magnets as they do so. As you stroll through the bush you meet impala after impala, carefully maintaining its 100-yard flight distance. If you violate that, they are gone.

It is hard for impala, and it will get harder yet. The rains — if they come — are not due until November. This is always a hard time of the year for impala, but right now, it is a hard time of the century.

• What's about: Birders — listen for the thin call of migrating redwings overhead. Twitchers — citrine wagtail and red-headed bunting in Shetland. Details from Birdline, 0398 700222.

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Arriving now: teal are among the most beautiful of the duck family

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Wholesome corn from America

Frances Bissell, the Times cook, celebrates 500 transatlantic years

MUCH of the food we eat is so woven into our culinary traditions that it is hard to imagine the ingredients being anything other than native. But the meeting of the old world with the new world 500 years ago affected the minutiae of our daily domestic life, and continues to do so today. Wheat and cattle were taken to Central and South America by the Spanish, who brought back to Europe potatoes, corn, turkey, tomatoes, pineapple, chocolate, peppers and varieties of beans unknown here. Some of these I see as "occasional foods", but I find it hard to imagine cooking without tomatoes, potatoes and chocolate.

Even in northern Europe we have come to rely on tomatoes for their unique flavour. And the potato, while not essential to every meal, has unique properties. For example, it combines with and enhances highly flavoured, expensive ingredients, enhancing them, absorbing and multiplying the flavours.

With sweet corn (corn on the cob) still in season, here is a recipe evolved by the German settlers of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Dutch. It is an ideal "Monday soup"; if you have had a large roast chicken at the weekend. Take off any scraps of meat, and simmer the carcass to make stock.

Pennsylvania Dutch corn and chicken soup with dumplings

(serves 4-6)

- 3 fresh corn on the cob
- 2pt/1.15l chicken stock
- seasoning
- 6-8oz/170-230g chicken meat
- 3oz/85g flour
- pinch of salt
- 1oz/30g butter, diced
- 1 egg
- water

Peel back and discard the husks and silk from the cobs. Cut off the kernels into a bowl, using a sharp knife, and then scrape down this cob to remove all the milky juices.

Dice or shred the chicken meat. Mix the flour and salt, and rub into the butter. Beat in the egg and enough water to make a thick-dropping batter. Bring the stock to the boil and drop in the corn and any corn liquid. When back to simmering point, trickle the batter, drop by drop, into the soup. Cook for 5-8 minutes more, until the dumplings are cooked, adding the chicken meat during this time. Season and serve.

TO MAKE fritters, soufflés, pancakes and griddle cakes you can use fresh corn scraped from the cob, as above. These are marvellous for breakfast with a little syrup.

Corn griddle cakes

(serves 4)

- 1oz/30g corn cobs and their liquid
- 1tsp self-raising flour
- pinch of salt, white pepper
- 1tsp buttermilk, yoghurt or cream
- 2 free-range eggs, separated
- 1oz/30g melted butter

Mix all the ingredients except the eggs and butter. Whisk the egg yolks and butter until pale, thick and foamy. Whisk the whites to firm peaks. Fold the egg yolk and cream mixture together, and then fold in the egg whites. Heat a well-oiled cast iron frying pan or griddle, grease it lightly and drop tablespoons of the mixture onto the hot surface. Brown both sides and turn off the heat.

Potato and wild mushroom hash

(serves 4)

- 2lb/900g potatoes
- up to 1lb/455g mushrooms
- 1/2lb/230g onions
- seasoning
- 1pt/270ml stock

Scrub, peel and thinly slice the potatoes. Trim, wipe and slice the mushrooms. Peel and thinly slice the onions. Lightly oil an oven-proof dish or roasting pan and make alternate layers of potatoes, mushrooms and onion, finishing with a layer of potatoes. Season each layer lightly. Pour over the stock, cover with foil and bake in a



moderate oven at 180C/350F, gas mark 4 for 45-60 minutes.

I WAS once taken to Rosa Mexicana, said by many to be the best Mexican restaurant in Manhattan, and served an exquisitely subtle dish of duck in pumpkin seed sauce, or pipian. The elusive sharpness came from the green tomato or tomatillo, with its papery husk. This is not easy to find here, but you could use physalis or Cape Gooseberry, which is a close relation, although it will change the colour of the sauce.

In this recipe, I have retained the rich green colour of the sauce and slightly altered the flavour by using a firm, under-ripe kiwi fruit (or you could use a squeeze of lime juice). The recipe works well with chicken, duck and wild duck. Wild rice makes a good accompaniment.

Duck breasts with pumpkin seed sauce

(serves 4)

- 4 duck breasts, off the bone
- 3oz/85g toasted pumpkin seeds
- 1tsp sunflower oil

Scrub, peel and thinly slice the potatoes. Trim, wipe and slice the mushrooms. Peel and thinly slice the onions. Lightly oil an oven-proof dish or roasting pan and make alternate layers of potatoes, mushrooms and onion, finishing with a layer of potatoes. Season each layer lightly. Pour over the stock, cover with foil and bake in a

moderate oven at 180C/350F, gas mark 4 for 45-60 minutes.

Pineapple and avocado salad

(serves 4-6)

- 1 medium size ripe pineapple
- 1 fresh lime
- several stems of fresh coriander
- 1 measure rum (optional)
- 1 or 2tsp light muscovado sugar
- 3 or 4tbsp groundnut, walnut, grapeseed or extra virgin olive oil
- salt, pepper

Remove the skin from the duck breasts; season lightly and poach in stock or water for 5-8 minutes. Remove and put to one side. To make the sauce, gently fry the seeds, and then the onion, chillies and garlic in the oil, until the onions are soft and wilted. Stir in half the coriander and watercress and the liquid, and simmer for a few minutes. Peel the kiwi fruit, roughly chop and put in a blender or food processor with the sauce and the rest of the coriander, watercress and seasoning. Blend until smooth, and return the sauce to the pan over a gentle heat. Put the duck breasts in the sauce and cook the two together for 4-5 minutes before serving.

Pineapple and avocado salad

(serves 4)

- 1 medium onion, peeled and chopped
- 1 or 2 green chillies, or more to taste, seeded and chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed
- 1oz/30g fresh coriander, chopped
- 1oz/30g watercress leaves, chopped
- 4pt/70ml duck stock or water
- 1 kiwi fruit
- salt, pepper

THE best way to tell if a pineapple is ripe is to smell it: ripe fruit smells of itself; unripe fruit smells of nothing. Avoid any that have bruises or dull, brown patches. I believe that pineapple and kirsch is a waste of two good ingredients, the kirsch completely overwhelming the fruit. For me there are other flavours more appropriate to the pineapple — rum, coconut, gingers and vanilla, for example.

I love pineapple fool, especially when the fruit is mixed with custard rather than whipped cream. Or dice the fruit, fold in the custard, and pile into the hollowed out shell.

Forget about pineapple jellies and mousses; however, the raw fruit contains a powerful enzyme which breaks down protein, the main constituent of gelatine. Cooking destroys the enzyme, but also removes the fresh flavour. It is this enzyme which makes pineapple a suitable fruit to serve after a protein-rich meal. The juice also acts as a meat tenderiser.

Here is a light, fruity dish to serve

as a starter, as part of a buffer or as a relish with spicy meat dishes.

Pineapple and avocado salad

(serves 4-6)

- 1 medium size ripe pineapple
- 1 fresh lime
- several stems of fresh coriander
- 1 measure rum (optional)
- 1 or 2tsp light muscovado sugar
- 3 or 4tbsp groundnut, walnut, grapeseed or extra virgin olive oil
- salt, pepper

Halve and quarter the pineapple. Cut away the central core and remove the flesh from each piece. Dice it, cut into narrow wedges. Grate the lime zest over the fruit and mix in some chopped coriander. Mix the rum, sugar, oil, seasoning and sufficient lime juice to taste to make a dressing. Mix thoroughly with the pineapple. Halve the avocados and remove the stone. Peel the fruit, dice the flesh and fold it into the pineapple mixture. Serve from a bowl, in individual bowls, or on salad leaves.

LASTLY, make a few jars of okra and tomato pickle to give as presents, or to serve with cold meats or spicy stews. Cherry tomatoes are just the right size.

Hot and sweet okra and tomato pickle

(fills two 1lb preserving jars)

1lb/455g tender young okra pods

1lb/455g cherry tomatoes

4 red or green chillies

2pt/1.15l distilled vinegar

1/2lb/230g sugar

3oz/85g salt

2in/5cm cinnamon stick

12 crushed cardamom pods

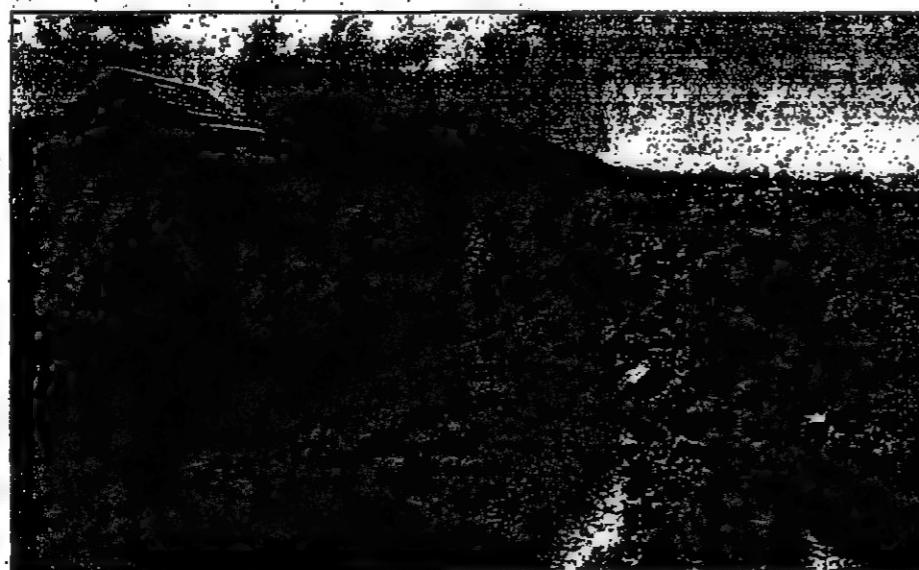
12 allspice berries

Wash and dry the vegetables and pack into the jars. Split the chillies in half and remove the seeds. Divide chillies between the two preserving jars. Put the rest of the ingredients in a saucepan, bring to the boil and pour over the vegetables and seal.

Ideally, you should leave the pickle to mature for 6-8 weeks before using.

Hot news from Chile

The southern hemisphere has another quality wine producer, says Jane MacQuinity



Natural choice: desert, ocean and mountains help to protect vineyards from aphids

The Chileans are coming. While I am convinced that Chile is not and never can be the "new Australia", this southern-hemisphere wine outsider has recently battled ahead. Last year Britain imported an impressive four million litres of Chilean wine, twice as much as in 1990, whose figures, in turn, showed a hefty increase on 1989.

Chile, like the southern-hemisphere wine producers Australia and the Cape, has plenty of climatic and other advantages over its cold, wet European competition. Not quite the "viticulural paradise" the Chileans claim, their long, thin country nevertheless has a good Mediterranean-like grape-growing climate. Chile's hot southern-hemisphere days are refreshed by cool Pacific breezes and also tempered at night by cold air from the Andes, to the east. In addition, the snow-covered Andes mountains provide clean, clear irrigation water for crops. The fertile central valley round Santiago is the home of Chile's best wines.

Bright light and luminosity further encourage grape growth in Chile just as they do in Australia, shortening the vine's cycle. Chile also benefits from a variety of light, fertile, often sandy, soils and few pests and vine diseases trouble its wine producers. But Chile's greatest advantage, over every other wine-producing country

in the world, is its phylloxera-free vineyards, due to its sandy soil and natural barriers of the Atacama desert, Pacific ocean and Andes.

Avoiding this aphid devastation, Chileans do not need to graft vines onto to resistant American root stock, and their quick-growing and ungrafted vineyards are still thriving at a year.

With so many natural benefits over their competitors, including the importation of a wide range of top French grape varieties in 1851, why have Chilean wines taken so long to do well here? The short answer is that Chile's grape-growers and winemakers have done little to take advantage of their natural assets.

Yields are often too high to produce quality wines, and vines are often planted higgledy-piggledy. There is also the problem of the *pais* grape, a ladding, black muscat-like grape — Chile's only

native variety — which is still the most widely planted vine. It accounts for about half of the country's 67,000 hectares and 300 million litres of wine.

If Chile's vineyards have yet to reach their full potential, so too do its cellars. Despite the heat, the country did not have its first cold fermentation unit until 1979. Stainless steel, heat exchangers and other high-tech wine weaponry took another decade to be installed everywhere.

In Chile they are also reluctant to throw out their traditional, old, and often dirty beech-wood fermenters and casks. French and American oak casks were introduced in the late 1980s and the difference between the old and the new red Chilean wine styles is astonishing.

What fired the change between Chile ancient and modern, apart from a more stable economy, was the exposure to

1991 Rowan Brook Sauvignon Blanc, Mataquito Valley, £2.99, The Victoria Wine Company £3.49. Rowan Brook's splendid, zesty, gooseberry-green sauvignon is one of the best-value Chilean white wines available.

• 1991 Rowan Brook Cabernet Merlot, Mataquito Valley, £2.99.

Not quite so impressive as its white sister, but a good, cheap, juicy plum and blackcurrant-like mouthful none the less.

• 1992 Cullinan Sauvignon Blanc, Curicó, Oddbins £3.99.

Glorious rich blackcurrant pastel flavours backed up by lots of aromatic oak make this a first class Chilean red.

Best buys

• 1989 Don Maximiano Estate Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon, Errazuriz Panquehue, Aconcagua Valley, £5.59, Safeway £6.39. Oddbins carry the '88 for £6.49.

• 1991 Rowan Brook Cabernet Merlot, Mataquito Valley, £2.99.

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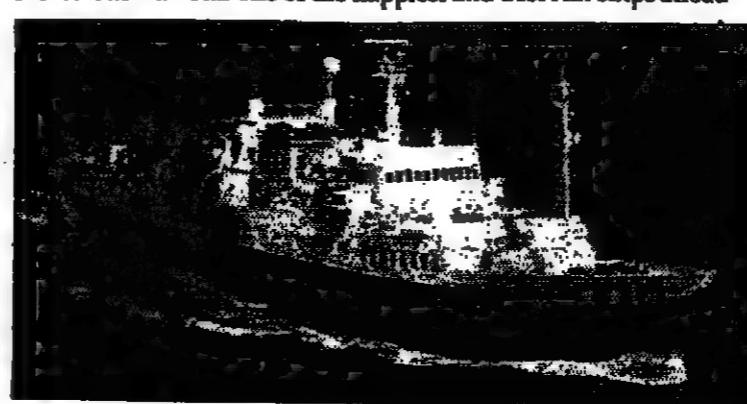
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DAY 7 Cape Town Day free until late afternoon embarkation on the MS Caledonian Star Moor overnight in Cape Town.

DAY 8 Hermanus A day at sea sailing along the coast to the resort of Hermanus. Time free ashore in the resort in the late afternoon.

DAY 9 Mossel Bay The garden route offers some of the most spectacular coastal scenery in the world. Today we can see why this claim is justified.

DAY 10 Port Elizabeth Visit the city including Donkin Street, a fine example of early Victorian colonial architecture, the British fort and Addo Elephant Park.

DAY 11 East London Sunbathing the Buffalo River, this attractive city is home to the "Caledonians" which is housed in the local museum. Also see the Botanical Gardens.

DAY 12 Durban Arrive in the morning, disembark after breakfast and explore the city before flying to Johannesburg and London in the late afternoon.

DAY 13 London (Heathrow) Arrive in the morning.

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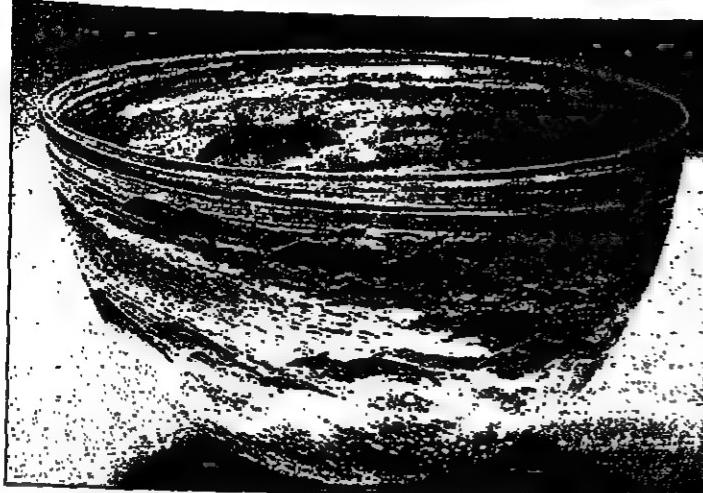
Many hands make bright work

Nicole Swengley finds dolphins, poppits and skittles at the Chelsea Crafts Fair

CHELSEA Crafts Fair, now in its thirteenth year, continues to inspire and encourage shoppers seeking unusual, attractive and well-made designs. Each week of the fortnight, two different groups of exhibitors show their wares. These include ceramics, glassware, jewellery, toys, basketwork, lighting, textiles, furniture, fashion and interior accessories. As usual, a high standard has been maintained by a rigorous selection committee, which this year has encouraged exhibitors from overseas to join the best British designer-makers as a foretaste of the new international crafts fair in Amsterdam to be organised annually by the Crafts Council from May.

• Chelsea Crafts Fair runs from next Tue-Sun, and from Oct 13-18 (10am-8pm, Tues-Fri; 10am-6pm Sat and Sun) at Chelsea Town Hall, King's Road, London SW3.

Feeling blue? Malcolm Sutcliffe's dolphin bowls, from £75 (15cm) to £250 (27cm); 1 Chesterfield Business Centre, Pottery Lane, West Chesterfield, Derbyshire, F4 1BN (0246 271948)



Head start: silk poppit (£39), Tamsin Young Hats, Studio Ten, Muspole Workshops, 25-27 Muspole Street, Norwich, Norfolk, NR3 1DJ (0603 760955); also from Rainbow Clothes, The Market Place, Caernarfon, Dyfed, South Wales (0267 230499)



Face to face: hand-turned, hand-painted 4½ in skittles (£19.50 for a set of six with ball) by The Hero Manufacturing Company, 968 Milton Road, Portsmouth. They also make spinning tops (£5.65) and cord pulls (£3.45)



Down to earth: this tall jug (£48, 31cm) is among Fenella Mallalieu's hand-thrown earthenware decorated with non-toxic lead glazes; 100 Mortimer Road, London N1 4LA (071-241 6553)



Graphic designs: papier-mâché vessels by Juliette Pearce (£70-£175); Cross Street Studios, 14 Cross Street, Hove BN3 1AS (0273 725321); at Chelsea her papier-mâché jewellery and small bowls will start at £10

Brighten your bedtime: bedside chest (£175) by Jill Hancock, 7 Harbour Studios, Porlock Weir, Minehead, Somerset, TA24 8PD (0643 862104), by appointment



Wise as a sage: Malcolm Sutcliffe's dolphin bowls, from £75 (15cm) to £250 (27cm); 1 Chesterfield Business Centre, Pottery Lane, West Chesterfield, Derbyshire, F4 1BN (0246 271948)

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Big fun for the little party people

Jessica Gorst-Williams on how to avoid birthday tantrums and be the children's host and hostess with the mostest

Sorry, but Emma doesn't want to come to your party." This is the third last-minute refusal in 15 minutes. I take away another plate and paper cup, space the chairs out a little more. Is it parties in general? Or is it something more personal? Even the conjuror's rabbit didn't seem to want to be at last year's party. He popped out of the hat, took one look at us and had a heart attack.

I open the door to the first guest. She's crying. I summon the birthday child. She is lurking in her bedroom unwilling to come down until I go up and whisper in her ear that the child downstairs has an interesting looking box in her hand with a ribbon on it. It's not only morale that can be broken by parties; they can break you moneywise too. Sharing a party can be a remedy for both.

Last year Sian Galanis spent £90 on an entertainer for Christian, then four. There were party bags for going home and a lot of food left over. This year she is sharing with three good friends, all of whom have children of the same age and about the same mix of friends. Eighteen children will go on the Tenterden steam train in Kent, and have tea specially prepared by someone else — a box including jelly, sandwiches, crisps and chocolate biscuits and a drink — while riding through the countryside.

There will be no party loot bags to take home. Instead there'll be a train tub (provided by Mrs Galanis) and her friends) with plastic snakes and lizards which will need a bit of finding. Each birthday child will cost her or her parents £45. "It may be the easiest party I've given," Mrs Galanis says, "and possibly the cheapest."

The downside to sharing is that your child may miss out on his annual chance to be a star. I know someone who lost a whole birthday this way, gone in a puff of smoke as the girl he was sharing it with blew out all the birthday candles in one.

With very little ones, it is quite easy to go solo without going broke. You can hire a bubble machine,

Join the junior train set

An event of mine that made quite a splash started when I found a giant turtle and put it on quite a small table, surrounded by some bored-looking three-year-olds. It must have been the warm room that set off the trickle. I fetched a kitchen towel, swabbed a bit and discreetly went away, while someone began telling the children how to learn to like reptiles. By the time I came back more kitchen towels were needed. Soon a whole roll had gone. I couldn't keep up. I had to crawl under the table while the awwstruck children moved back and watched as a tropical began to pour down — half over me — from all four sides of the table.

That was seven years ago. The other day my son was speaking to a friend. "Remember the turtle?" he said. "Oh yes," she replied, giggling uncontrollably. "I'll never forget. It was wicked."

• Next week: Increasing the fun — and the cost.



Party line: all set for a trip on the Kent and East Sussex Railway. The fare includes sandwiches, crisps, jellies and soft drinks on the train

SOME IDEAS FOR PARTY FUN, STARTING WITH PLACES THAT WILL RUN YOUR PARTY:

LONDON

HORROR MUSEUM AND GARDENS, 100 London Road, London SE23 3PQ (081-699 1872)

Tour museum, and see aquarium, including giant walrus. Tea with streamers and balloons, sausages, sandwiches, crisps, ice-cream £5.50 each. Birthday cake £15. Party bags £1.

TOY MUSEUM, 21 Craven Hill, near Paddington station, W2 3EN (081-262 9450)

Fun area set aside for parties, with indoor video, vintage train and roundabout. £20, plus £1.50 per child.

Food provided by party.

WEMBLEY STADIUM, Wembley, Middlesex HA9 0DW (081-492 8833)

Guided tour (minimum ten children). Birthday tea, hot, cold or kosher menus. Birthday cakes £13.50. Party bags £6.95.

OUT OF TOWN

BALDWIN PARK FARM, Cramond Road, Matfield, Kent (0892 832549)

Offers complete party, including free run of old breeds animal farm, and extra such as ball pond, butterfly house, mouse house and tractor or pony rides.

Present in animal-shaped party box for everybody. Balloon. Wide choice of food. £6.50 per child (includes four adults free).

BLAIN BIRD PARK, Honey Hill, Blain, Canterbury (0327 471 666)

Magical place. Party with balloons and food and entrance fee under £5 per child.

• Next week: Increasing the fun — and the cost.

PARTY-GIVER'S IDEAS GUIDE

RUGLEY HALL, Alcester, Warwickshire (0789 762090)

Parties in Rodgers Cabin, next to adventure playground. Home-made cakes, sandwiches. About £5 each.

HAPPY EATERS nationwide.

Enquiries to head office: 52-54 Broadwick Street, London W1V 1FF (071-734 9681)

Bring birthday cake. Three-course meal from children's menu. Party packs. About £3-£4 per head.

LEISURE CENTRES nationwide, e.g., River Park Leisure Centre, Winchester (0926 869525)

Rough guide: minimum 12 children. £2.45 each for use of hall with options including football party, badminton, mini cars. Swimming pool hire from £29. Tea £2.75 per child (sausages, sandwiches, crisps). Hats and balloons.

COUNCIL OWNED SWIMMING POOLS, e.g., Bedford Oasis Beach Pool, Cardington Road, Bedford MK42 0BZ (0234 272100)

Minimum ten children, maximum 20. £5.50 per child; birthday child free. One hour swimming, waves and flumes. Party organiser leads tea with burgers and chips and so on. Party games. Birthday cake can be provided.

ICE RINKS

NOTTINGHAM ICE RINK, Lower Parliament Street, Nottingham (0602 384526)

Staking for half an hour. Food, Chips and burgers and so on. £4.50 each.

BASINGSTOKE ICE RINK (0256 840219)

One hour swimming and one hour skating. Party leader to look after the children. Hot meal £5.50 per child.

QUEEN'S QUEEN'S COURT, Queensway, London W1V 2QP (071-229 0172)

Roped off section (£25), suite hire (£29.50). Skating charge £2.50, skate hire £1.50. About £6 per head for food.

STEAM RAILWAYS

KENT AND EAST SUSSEX RAILWAY, Tenterden station, Kent (0580 65155)

Price £5 per child, includes fare and tea on the train. Party hat.

EAST SOMERSET RAILWAY (The Strawberry Line), Crammow station, Somerset (0749 880417)

Jump blow-out £2.95, fee £1.79.

RAMSEY HYDRA AND DYNCHURCH RAILWAY, New Romney station, Kent TN28 0PL (0679 622353)

Small animals £2.50 including travel.

PARTY EQUIPMENT

Oscar's Den, 127-129 Abbey Road, NW6 4SL (081-953 8158)

Hire equipment includes bouncers, costumes, hats balloons, masks, make-up, party paperware, party tricks.

FROG FROLICS, 123 Ifield Road, London SW10 9AR (071-370 4358)

Party invitations, prizes, fireworks, costumes. Hires play items, provides birthday cakes. Can organise entertainers.

GOODWOOD RACECOURSE, West Sussex (0243 710457)

Parcels. Hires bouncy castles (with attendant), disco bus machine. Costumes. Entertainment advisory service.

THEATRE GEAR, 37a Church Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent (0892 525127)

Hires costumes and gels party wear.

PARADES, 7 Pulteney Bridge, Bath (0225 443144)

Party goods and novelties.

Events

LONDON

PUNCH AND JUDY FESTIVAL: Show throughout the day with leading performers, including Professor Percy Price II, Gingival and Colonial Politeemba.

The Plaza, Covent Garden, WC2, Sun, 1pm-5pm. Free.

PEASLEY HARVEST FESTIVAL: Shows attended by the courtiers and queens in their finery.

St Martin-in-the-Fields church, Trafalgar Square, WC1. Tomorrow, 3pm.

DREAMS OF ALEX FRASER: Premiere of a new play for young people, written by Bernard Kops to commemorate the fifteen anniversary of the tragic young dancer going into hiding.

Palace Theatre for Children, 240 The Broadheath, SW19 8SE, office (081-543 4228). Today and every Saturday until Nov 7, 2pm and 5.30pm.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S FILM AND VIDEO FESTIVAL: More than 100 films and videos over the weekend, including animation, documentary, live action and experimental.

NFT and MCM, South Bank, SE1. Today, tomorrow. Further details and booking on 071-815 1377/1331.

BUNNY'S SPUNK: Puppet show for older children: a delightful poetic play by Loris.

Puppet Theatre Barge, St Helena Pier, Richmond, Today 7.30pm. Box office (0835 202745). £6, child £4.

NATIONWIDE:

AMBLE BIRDSWATCHING: Guided walks, puppet shows, games, bird box building, films and talks. Celebrity birdbasher Bill Oddie sets the scene at 10.45am.

Druridge Bay Country Park, near Amble, Northumberland. Today, tomorrow 10.30am-4pm. £1, child 50p. Further details on 091-232 4148.

BATTLEFIELD FLYING: Flying displays, training demonstrations, talk about the history of flying with birds of prey.

Battle Abbey, Battle, East Sussex (0424 67921). Tomorrow 2pm. £1, child £1.50.

BIGGEWEDE KITES: Austin kites organised by the British Kite Flying Association.

Old Warden aerodrome, Biggesweade, Beds (0767 627288). Sun 10am-4pm. £4, child £2.50, under-fives free.

GODSHILL SCOTIA: Today, Linda and Roddy Sheepshanks' Musical Mystery Tour. Tomorrow a concert by young performers with all music pre-1850.

Finchcocks, Goudhurst, Kent. Today, 2.30pm and 5pm. Tomorrow 2.30pm. £4. Further information and booking on 0580 211702.

NETLEY'S 'ROBIN THE REED BIRD': Three players give a 40-minute interpretation of King Lear. Netley Abbey, Netley, near Southampton, Hants (0703 453076). Tomorrow 2pm. £2.50, child £1.75.

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SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

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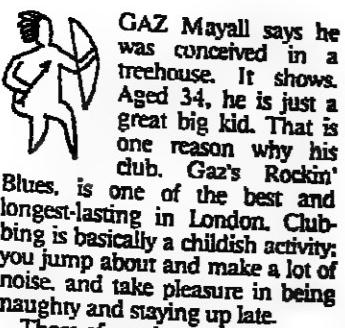
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Still breaking out the Mayall muse



GAZ Mayall says he was conceived in a treehouse. It shows. Aged 34, he is just a great big kid. That is one reason why his club, *Gaz's Rockin' Blues*, is one of the best and longest-lasting in London. Clubbing is basically a childish activity; you jump about and make a lot of noise, and take pleasure in being naughty and staying up late.

Those of us who are getting on a bit — over 30, that kind of thing — do sometimes find ourselves thinking, "I shall never go to club again". Curiously, an overt, innocent quality at *Gaz's* is one of the things that makes it such a good club for grown-ups. It's a dive, it's fun. It's familiar, it's somehow innocent.

And it's just the way it always was — beer-drinking, walls sweating, and *Gaz* leaping about in war paint, waving his arms and making people have a good time by force of personality. Not that they need much encouragement. Everyone knows what *Gaz's* is for.

When you walk down Portobello Road with *Gaz*, about one person every 40 yards will greet him, and he will greet them back. I've never known such a man for knowing people, and not being in the least bit smoky about it. It may be a stallholder, or an ancient West Indian, or a girl with a baby, or a rockabilly boy with flat top, or some frighteningly fashionable person. You are likely to see any of these people at the club, except possibly the baby (but if it came, *Gaz* certainly would not turn the child away).

Japanese teenagers, David Bowie, minor royalty, boys used to go to school with ... *Gaz's* club is like the Broad Walk in Kensington Gardens; sooner or later you will see everybody.

"We still get people who came on the first night," he says. "People who have not been here for years crop up again, and say: 'It's just the same. We still play the signature songs: 'My Baby Just Cares for Me' by Nina Simone; 'Respect' by Aretha Franklin; 'Long Tall Sally' by Little Richard; and lots of ska and reggae."

Gaz will not say why, of all the one-night-a-week London clubs that have come and gone since 1980, his has come and stayed. He is too busy dancing around his sitting-room and pointing out a particularly tatty section of a 1950s

... and still rockin'
the blues in the
heart of Soho, chief
clubber Gaz Mayall
parleys with
Louisa Young

R'n'B number called "Your Driver's Licence Please", by Roy Tann. It's a rocking ditty about "trying to park up somewhere for a quiet smog", and *Gaz* is specially pleased with the introduction.

That, of course, is the answer. He loves the music as much today as 12 years ago when the club started, and he has the knack of sharing his enthusiasm.

Part of this is in his dress sense:



Gaz loves the music as much today as 12 years ago when the club started, and he has the knack of sharing his enthusiasm

races. When he was a child he wanted to be an explorer, then an archaeologist, and "I would have been a shaman, if I'd been born in Siberia". He "bunked off" school at 14, "because I didn't want to become a sapsucker", but now spends a lot of time studying the history of what has happened on earth: the living history. "I've always been the type to ask questions. I want to know the roots of religions, the correlations of

things," he says.

His father is the veteran blues guitarist and singer John Mayall, and his mother a classical pianist so of course part of his education was piano lessons. At eight, he had to dragged kicking and screaming from watching *Batman* on television at 13 "this bad-tempered old bag spent ten minutes telling me to cut my nails, then made me play scales, so I asked her where the lavatory was — and never saw her again". Then one day, when he was 15, he heard a friend playing the piano, playing two notes he really liked. "They were G and A and they sounded really good. So from those two notes I taught myself."

From there he went on to form his first band (when he was 22) and founded the club, "which is the hub of my musical wheel". The spokes are various. There's his record label, on which he records his reggae and ska heroes, such as Prince Buster and Laurel Aitken, and there's his band, The Trojans ("they take up several spokes, actually"). The Trojans are very popular in Japan, where they have hit records and a contract (with Sony). *Gaz* is a hero in Japan, chased by young girls in the street. He appears on television and was let loose in a clothes supermarket for publicity purposes: all he wanted was "40 pairs of rock and roll socks".

But the club is the thing. "The plan is for it to go on indefinitely," he says. He has live bands there, Desmond Dekker has played there, Lee Perry, Japanese R'n'B groups, The Trojans themselves every couple of months. The Trojans are playing at *Gaz's* on the Thursday before Hallowe'en, in a special "tribute to the dead heroes", which includes everyone from friends to long-gone musicians to the victims of Tiananmen Square.

John Mayall has played there twice, most recently in February, along with *Gaz*. "It was brilliant," *Gaz* junior says. "Totally unheralded. He said it reminded him

The night we met was a quiet evening spent making up a tape of songs about cars — starting with "I Need a Car", proceeding to "I Got a New Car", going on to "Get Out of the Car". He was wearing red, blue and yellow stripes on his face, a cowboy hat with feathers in it, a shirt covered with dancing savages and a belt with a keyboard. And trousers — though these are replaced by a leopard-skin loin cloth often enough.

Clearly a fun guy, you might think. Yes, but his games have intentions. He started dressing as a Pawnee when the Gulf war began: it was his statement in favour of respecting the earth, which native American cultures do and were threatened by industrialised nations tend not to.

The red, yellow and blue stripes on his face represent sun over the sea and, because they are the primary colours, the harmony of races on earth. "Like at the club," he says, becoming suddenly pragmatic. "Everyone can go there, all different kinds of people, all different backgrounds, coming together in harmony."

He loves different cultures and

the Flamingos in the 1960s." *Gaz* senior shares his son's fascination with the living earth, and has often sung to its defence. One of his pieces, "Nature's Disappearing Polluted death is coming ... Do you care? Man's filthy creature Raping the land and water and the air,



Keys to the music: Mayall's red, yellow and blue face stripes represent harmony among the races

Venues

- Alice In Wonderland, Gossips, 69 Dean Street (071-434 4430). Mon, 10pm-3.30am. £5. Psychedelic night with DJs Doctor, Christian and Chris.
- All Back To Mine, The Mill Bar, 12 Sutton Row (071-439 4655). Sat, 10.30pm-3am. £8. Dave Dornell's idea of cosy clubbing. The ultimate house party.
- Aquarius, The Rocket, Holloway Road (071-700 2421). Sat, 10pm-6am. £13. Massive PA system, vibrated to bits by top DJs Grooverider and Mickey Finn.
- Bars of British, The Ministry of Sound, 103 Gaunt Street (071-378 6528). Fri, 12pm-3am. £12. State-of-the-art New York-style club pushes British house music.
- Club Baby, The Fridge, Town Hall Parade, Brixton Hill (071-326 5100). Tues, 10pm-3am. £5. Predominantly gay crowd enjoying hard core tunes.
- Feed First, Cuckoo Palace, Cuckoo Hill Street (071-387 4230). Tues, 9pm-3am. £6. Indie rock tunes in black.
- Glitter, The Milk Bar, Fri, 10pm-3am. £5. Possibly the trendiest ticket in town: a glittering 1970s retro.
- Gro Onions, Castle Road, 9 Young Street (071-937 9403). Mon, 10pm-2am. £4. Creative blast of old-time funk.
- Respect, The Wag, 35 Wardour Street (071-437 5534). Fri, 10pm-6am. £9. New Jack Swing, Rap, Funk, mixed up by Britain's top swing beat DJ, Kiss FM's Steve Jevier.
- Rockabilly, The Borderline, Manet Street (071-734 2055). Sat, 11.30pm-3am. £5. Guitar rock rules at this small but friendly venue.
- Rock Opera, SW1, 197 Victoria Street (071-328 7455). Fri, 10.30pm-Sun. £10. Beautiful people dancing to beautiful progressive house. Watch out for the transvestite waiters and, of course, mad opera singers.
- Soul Survivors Too, The Starlight, beneath the Great Western Hotel, Prader Street. Fri, 10.30pm-3am. £7. Run by Dave Morrison, who cobbled together the new Brit soul compilation album *Movin' On*.
- Torremolinos, Cinecitta, 74 Welbeck Street (071-335 2794). Fri, 10.30pm-3.30am. £6. The ultimate Mediterranean beach party featuring Illes and water pistols while DJs Tommy Mallett and Hugo Inglassa play anything from house to indie.
- Vivid, The Paradise Club, 1-5 Parkfield Street (071-354 9993). Fri, 11pm-8am. £10. Techno from DJs Joe 90, Ray Keith and DJ Hyp plus garage from Andy Lewis, Calum and Kenny C.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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NOTICE TO THE POLICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on 20th July 1992 named as above, a firm of solicitors, registered under the Insolvency Act 1986, has been admitted to the jurisdiction of the court as a receiver in respect of the assets of the firm of Price Waterhouse, 100 Bishopsgate, EC2M 3AD, London, and that the firm of *Price Waterhouse* has been wound up by the court on 20th July 1992. Notice is given that the firm of *Price Waterhouse* has been admitted to the jurisdiction of the court as a receiver in respect of the assets of the firm of *Price Waterhouse*, 100 Bishopsgate, EC2M 3AD, London, and that the firm of *Price Waterhouse* has been wound up by the court on 20th July 1992. Notice is given that the firm of *Price Waterhouse* has been admitted to the jurisdiction of the court as a receiver in respect of the assets of the firm of *Price Waterhouse*, 100 Bishopsgate, EC2M 3AD, London, and that the firm of *Price Waterhouse* has been wound up by the court on 20th July 1992. 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WHAT TO WEAR

Great British accident



Left
She wears: cashmere cable-knit polo-neck sweater (around shoulders), £465; cashmere cable-knit round-neck sweater, £465; silk scarf, £80; beige wool trousers, £410; suede shoes with crest, £180, all Ralph Lauren, 143 New Bond Street, W1; Harvey Nichols, SW1. Lambswool polo-neck sweater, £50, John Smedley, Harrods, SW1; Square One, 43 St John's Wood High Street, N8; Jenners, Princes Street, Edinburgh; Fishers, 7 Regent Arcade, Brighton; Socks, £2.99, Sock Shop, all branches. Earrings, £18, Butler & Wilson, 20 South Molton Street, W1; 189 Fulham Road, SW3; 33 Princes Square, Glasgow. He wears: corduroy shirt, £80, Polo Ralph Lauren, as before. Long sleeve T-shirt, £29, Paul Smith, 41-44 Floral Street, WC2, 10 Bayard Lane, Nottingham. Cream sweater (on chair), £145, Joseph Tricot, 26 Sloane Street, SW1; 77 Fulham Road, SW3. Cotton chinos, £40.50, Blazer, 33a King's Road, SW3 and branches. Nubuck boots, £129, Paul Smith, as before.

Right
She wears: tweed jacket, £240, Sportmax, 153 New Bond Street, W1; 32 Sloane Street, SW1. Blue sweater with collar, £65, John Smedley, as before. Tan suede jodhpurs, £364, Burberry, 18-22 Haymarket, SW1. Suede desert boots, £165, Fratelli Rossetti, 177 New Bond Street, W1; 196 Sloane Street, SW1. He wears: grey zip jacket with quilted lining, £425, Dolce & Gabbana, Joseph, 26 Sloane Street, SW1; 77 Fulham Road, W1. Check button-down shirt, £40, Blazer, 33a King's Road, SW3 and branches. Blue corduroy trousers, £75, Harrods, SW1. Loafers, £37.99, Shellys, 149 Oxford Street, W1 and branches.

The weekend is a British institution. One day of rest in a weary week may have been good enough for God but, since He is, after all, known to be an Englishman, his compatriots were pretty confident that He would approve of their improvement. Other nations, awed and envious, noted no obvious retribution and, tentatively at first, followed suit, although they mostly neglected to think of a word of their own for it.

Yet it is tempting to believe that retribution there was and is: a subtle sort of nemesis. Because, although the British invented the weekend, they are, in one respect at least, not very good at it. They can't quite get the clothes right.

You could call it the Great British Accident, the weekend descent into an aesthetic badlands where a miasma of uncertainty clouds the vision and clogs the palate. It renders the shopping malls, the pubs and restaurants of Britain a two-day visual wasteland of saggy jeans, frayed sweatshirts, wilted skirts, pilled jumpers, shiny anoraks, droopy-crotched track pants, threadbare jackets and grubby-cuffed shell suits.

Accidental and unavoidable scruffiness have always been with us, a consequence of poverty, illness, or a mind preoccupied with higher, more important things than mere appearances. And there have always been individuals who have chosen to affect a down-at-heel, rumpled, threadbare, mismatched and unflattering style of dress in the hope that observers will assume they fall into the last category.

But this is something else. It is not affectionate nor, as many an alienated

Britain invented weekends, says Brenda Polan, so why can't we dress for them?

teenager has employed it, aggressive political statement. Nor is it, as our forebears would have insisted, a sign of vanity, arrogance and bad manners.

There is no calculation in it. In the workplace everyone nowadays knows the importance of image, of using clothing and grooming to make a clear statement of status, character and ambition. We know how to dress to make the best impression at a meeting, a conference, a job interview or even a party. In our leisure time, however, we seem to relinquish control.

Perhaps it comes down to a native puritanism. Looking well-groomed, effective and promotable in the workplace is a practical necessity. There is no such justification for purity when pleasing oneself. This particularly applies to men. Compliment him on his appearance in the office and he'll tell you he has

important meeting. Compliment him at the weekend and he assumes you are ribbing him for being vain. It makes the retailers despair. On their trips abroad to gather the goodies they hope to sell to the British consumer, they gaze misty-eyed and maudlin upon the pristine polos and pressed chinos that Ralph Lauren's customers don on Friday nights, on the Savile Row tweeds and Burlington Arcade cashmere of weekend Italians, on the immaculate, laid-back chis of the French attacking a Sunday morning *grande crème*.

They look at the racks and rails of clothing specifically designed for relaxation, and wonder at a nation that has so far lost its sense of appropriateness, its pleasure in propriety and perfection, that it plays golf in its oldest flannels, meets its girlfriends for Saturday brunch and a mooch round Harvey Nichols in the skin that's too shabby for the office, and escorts the kids to a tea party in mud-strained sneakers and leggings with terminal bum-sag.

It is not, of course, the object of newspapers to comfort retailers, whatever their plight. It is, however, the proper business of a socially responsible organ to encourage a healthy trend in society when it spots one. This trend started, as most do, with the young. There is a new leisure-time smartness to teenagers. It can't be long before this makes the rest of us feel uncomfortably under-dressed.

One of my favourite teenagers has

already tactfully asked me to wear a skirt or proper trousers when I take her to Saturday lunch at Joe's Cafe. So it is to prettier, polisher weekends that this space is dedicated.

**Fashion by Sarah Newton
Hair and make-up by Liam Dunn
for Max & Co
Photographs by Chris Craymer
Photographed at the Bibendum
Oyster Bar, Michelin House,
Fulham Road, SW3 and
Les Spécialités St Quentin,
Fulham Road, SW3**

NEXT WEEK
Victoria Glendinning on the Booker prize

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Switch to blades and roll away

MARC ASPLAND



Speed freaks: Vince Rogers and Alice Thomson take an eight-wheel ride through the park

SPORTING LIFE

So far the British have been less enthusiastic about embracing the sport, but already a few aficionados of American culture, speed freaks and trend-setters vicars have all been blading up.

In-line skates can now be bought at many large sports stores, but Blade Runner in Portobello, west London, is the first specialty shop. "It's not just a kid's fad like skateboard or mountain bikes," says Dolce Wightman, a glamourous former model who runs the shop. "Most of my customers are over 25. They are

attracted to the sport as an alternative to jogging or swimming."

As someone who neither swims nor jogs and who is inclined to swear at roller-skaters speeding lethally down streets rather than gasp at them in admiration, I was not sure that this sport was for me. But Ms Wightman soon had me kitted out with knee and shoulder

pads, wrist-guards and some smazy lime green and black blades before gently pushing me off in the direction of her friend Vince Roper, who was going to teach me the art — or was it the science — of in-lining.

As it was pouring with rain, we decided to give Hyde Park a miss, and I had my first lesson away from public scrutiny in a deserted local sports centre.

The best thing about roller-

blading is that it is so simple to learn. I never mastered the skateboard, but the basic in-line

glide is quite easy. Skates are

not hard to balance on, you just

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Nothing to grouse about

STEPHEN MARKSON

Patrick James
checks into a hotel
to go in pursuit
of the edible

One thing is certain about rough shooting: it is unreliable. We had been walking for almost two hours in knee-high heather and heavy showers, and between four of us not one shot had been fired. I was just beginning to wonder whether it would be a better idea to head for the beach rather than the moor when a covey of six grouse bolted between my host Michael Dawney and me.

I had one foot ankle-deep in a bog, the other wobbling on a tuft of heather, and the birds had had a vital split-second start. While making sure the dogs were not in range and that the other guns had not strayed from the line, I managed with difficulty to blast off in the general direction of the birds, which were by now flying 50 yards away and only just in shot. I missed, but the adrenaline that was fizzing through my veins was worth every weary step of the previous two hours.

Our task for the morning was to walk-up grouse on moorland overlooking the mountains of Snowdonia, yet such was the day that fingered to admire the view was not advisable. This was rough shooting for the purist and the enthusiast, not for the faint at heart.

After a brief stop for me to catch my breath, Mr Dawney issued new orders: "We'll just walk up and over this small hill before lunch." I looked up at the mountain that confronted me with a sinking heart. Still, perhaps within a minute another, more accommodating covey might emerge and, if we were successful, the mountain would feel more like a molehill. It was not to be. The chances had been there for the taking, but there was nothing in the bag or lunch.

"When dealing with wild quarry nothing is ever guaranteed," Mr Dawney said consolingly. "But that only adds to the excitement."

During the day we were to walk over just a small section of

NOTEBOOK

HUNTING SEASONS: grouse, Aug 12-Dec 10 (best in Aug and Sept); pheasant, Sept 1-Feb 1 (best in Oct and rarely after Dec because of the recent decline in numbers); pheasant, Oct 1-Feb 1 (best in Nov and Dec); wildfowl, Sept 1-Jan 31 (above high water mark); 1st-20 Feb 20 below).

GAME LICENCES are required and valid for one year, postbox (Aug-Nov or Nov-July) or 14 days, and available from main post offices.

INSURANCE covering third party should be taken out. Members of the British Association for Shooting and Conservation are covered automatically up to a sum of £2 million whilst shooting in the UK. Annual membership £17.50 from BASC, Manfield Mill, Rousham, Wrexham, Clwyd LL12 0HL (0244 570881). The British Field Sports Society operates a similar insurance scheme. Standard membership £20 from: BFFS, 59 Kemington Road, London SE1 7PZ (071-922 4742).



Guns for hire: ready for action on a Welsh moor are (from left) Guy Wallace, Michael Dawney and Emry Lewis, plus indispensable four-legged friends

the 30,000 acres of shooting rights the Tynycornel Hotel has acquired in the past three years. How has it come by so much in so little time? "Many landowners in these parts are absentees, and often it was because I was the first to ask," says Mr Dawney, a devoted field sportsman who is in charge of developing the considerable shooting potential in this area. The comfortable hotel is one of five owned by Land & Leisure, a company run by former rugby star Gareth Edwards and a subsidiary of Welsh Water. It is also one of the oldest fishing

hotels in Britain which, until three years ago, shut down at the end of each fishing season in mid-October, re-opening in the spring. Mr Dawney is successfully filling it with shooting parties during the winter.

The main shooting attraction of this area is that from late October until January it offers some of the best woodcock shooting in Britain. Such is the mystique surrounding this wild bird that a "right-and-left" at woodcock is one of the most coveted prizes in game shooting. Apart from woodcock, the

area around Tynycornel, most given the easier walking." Mr Dawney says.

Tynycornel, tucked away on the shores of Tal-y-Llyn lake and surrounded by some of the most dramatic of Snowdonia's hills, is an ideal place for a weekend retreat. For the novice, it is a perfect place to learn some basic techniques and absorb the etiquette before embarking on a more formal shoot which, to the uninitiated, is a minefield.

Michael Dawney is aware of the need not to over-shoot any of his woods, but with such a large acreage this should never be a problem. It took us all day to

WEEKEND BREAKS

of which lies within the bounds of Snowdonia National Park, offers the chance of bagging almost every other form of quarry there is, from grouse on the moors of Buggin to snipe on the River Dovey and teal on the Mawddach estuary. It will not suit the unfit. I must say that, but obviously I will see that anyone not in reasonable condition is

shot one snipe and two mallard, leaving plenty of birds for future punters. The quarry was wild and unpredictable. The chances had been presented and missed. Mr Dawney is fond of saying: "People now prefer to sip the sport rather than gulp it." On my day in mid-September we merely sniffed the cork.

Other guns included Guy Wallace and his excitable pointers, and Emry Lewis, a member of the Welsh fly-fishing team that recently won the international championships. Both join Mr Dawney regularly to help him and the hotel guests. In the winter John Bailey, a professional pigeon shooter, accompanies groups on most of the woodcock days. Mr Dawney also has the advantage of owning three excellent labradors.

Already half those who have come in the past two years are returning this year for the pleasure of walking all day, gun in hand, in pursuit of supper.

Tynycornel Hotel, Tal-y-Llyn, Gwynedd, LL36 9AJ (0654 782282, fax 0654 782679) has 15 comfortable bedrooms, all with mountain or lakeside views. The excellent restaurant will prepare and cook any game that you shoot. The charge is £15.50 per person, wine is extra. Guns are available for hire (£10 a day with prior notice and cartridges may be bought from the hotel (£3 for 25). Two days shooting and three nights costs £465 per person. This includes VAT, dinner, bed and breakfast and lunch on shooting days. All parties are provided with at least one guide and dogs. Dinner, bed and breakfast for non-shooting guests costs £55 per person. Shotgun certificates must be presented.

SHOOTING PACKAGES

• **Arundell Arms Hotel, Lifton, Devon PL16 OAA (0566 784666)**

One a 17th-century coaching inn between Dartmoor and Bodmin Moor and now a sporting hotel with a *Good Food Guide* recommendation. A three-night break from Thursday evening to Sunday, including dinner, bed and breakfast, costs £159 a person (children under 17 can share parents' accommodation free). The following prices include lunch and transport: driven snipe shoots, £25 a gun; walked-up shoot (a mix of pheasant, duck, pigeon and woodcock) £85-£100 a gun; clay pigeon shoot, £44 a gun an hour, including tuition, cartridges and clay.

• **Bellathorne House Hotel, Kinclaven by Stanley, Perthshire PH1 4QN (0250 883268)** A baronial mansion dating from 1850 in its own estate and overlooking the River Tay. Centrally located for rough and game shooting in Perthshire and Angus. Prices are reduced for stays of three nights or more, and there are special prices for children. Prices for double rooms start from £60 a person in November, including dinner and full Scottish breakfast.

£10; pigeon shooting, two nights' accommodation meals as above, two full days pigeon shooting (two-night stay minimum) at £330 (incl. VAT) a person sharing a twin, double room, single room supplement £20; duck shooting (every evening), £55 (incl. VAT) a session for two-three hours. Grouse and pheasant shooting (driven and walked-up) are available by arrangement.

• **Alvie House, Alvie Estate, Kingussie, Inverness-shire PH21 JNE (0540 651255)** For those who prefer to stay in a shooting lodge rather than a hotel, Alvie House is the real McCoy. The 41-room Edwardian-style lodge is home to Jamie Williamson (dead stags and relations peer down from the walls), who hosts a variety of shooting breaks. From November, the following package is available for about £334 (incl. VAT) a person: three nights full board (with packed lunches if appropriate), one day grouse and blue hare shooting, one day moorland shooting (pheasant, rabbit, brown hare, snipe), one evening of duck shooting, one session of clay pigeon shooting.

• **Sunnaws House Hotel, Kelso, Roxburgh TD5 8JZ (05735 331)** Owned by the Duke of Roxburghe, this country house hotel is in the heart of the Borders amid 200 acres of woodland and gardens. Shooting is over the duke's estate and there is a school with resident instructor for novices. Among the shooting breaks are rough shooting, one night's accommodation, full Scottish breakfast, packed lunch with hot drink and three-course dinner at £200 (incl. VAT) a person sharing twin or double room (single room supplement £10; dinner, bed and breakfast £15 per person, wine extra). Guns are available for hire (£10 a day with prior notice and cartridges may be bought from the hotel (£3 for 25). Two days shooting and three nights costs £465 per person. This includes VAT, dinner, bed and breakfast and lunch on shooting days. All parties are provided with at least one guide and dogs. Dinner, bed and breakfast for non-shooting guests costs £55 per person. Shotgun certificates must be presented.

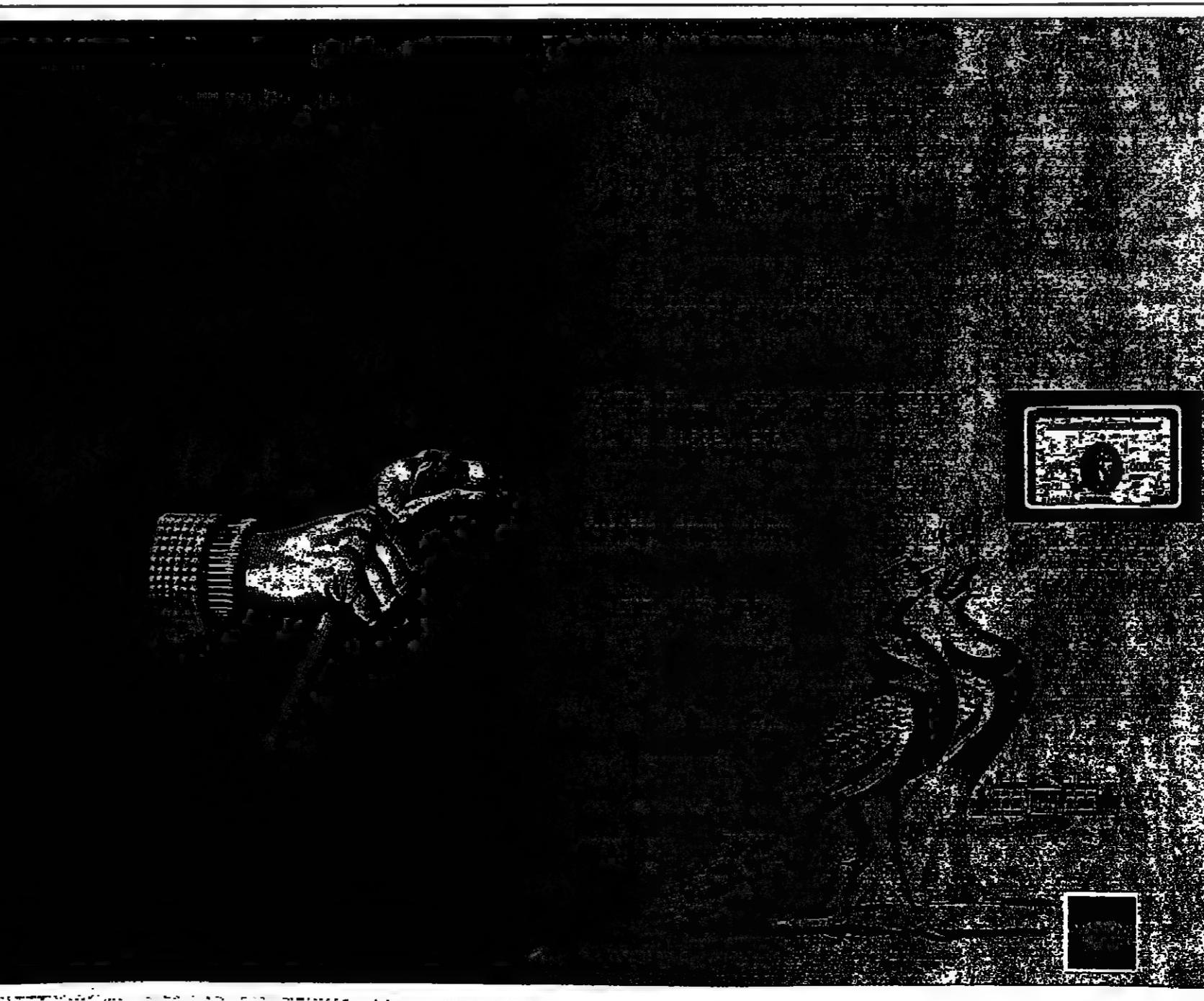
FACT BOX

• **The International In-Line Skate Association (081-993 7433)** promotes the image of in-line skating and safety regulations. It also offers an advice line.

• Equipment skates vary in quality and price, which ranges from £54 to £370. Wrist guards (£13-£35) are essential. Other safety accessories include elbow pads (£10-£26), knee pads (£10-£26) and helmets (£25-£50), all available at most cycle shops.

• Shops: Road Runner, Unit 002, Lancaster Road, Portobello, London W1 (071-792 0584); Skate Attack, 95 Highgate Road, Kentish Town, London NW5 1TR (mail order 071-485 0007); Major League Sports, Unit 15, Queens West Shopping Centre, Queen Street, Cardiff (0222 22281); Tiso 13, Wellington Place, Leith, Edinburgh E9 7SD (031 554 9101); Split Sports, 18 Church Street, Manchester M4 1PN (061 831 7374).

• **Holidays** Timeless Cycles, P.O. Box 18324, Boulder, Colorado 80308 (010 303 499 8965), runs one-week in-line holidays in Colorado and the Rockies for \$1,395 plus flight, and one-week holidays for Americans in Britain at \$1,695, which can be joined by British skaters. Lost World Adventures (0522 681532) organises one-week holidays in Venezuela's Gran Sabana national park for £550 plus flight.



Bye bye buying, hello renting

TWO years ago, when mortgage interest rates stood at 15.4 per cent, the fashionable thing to do was rent. The idea was to sell your house, release the capital and invest it, and rent somewhere for a good deal less than you had been paying on the mortgage. But with the cut in interest rates two weeks ago to 9 per cent and the subsequent move by some building societies to drop their mortgage rates to below 10 per cent, renting has become less appealing on purely financial grounds. Now it is a combination of other factors that is keeping the rental market busy.

"With over 300,000 mortgage holders six months and more in arrears, there is a sense that maybe young people should not rush into ownership," says John Birch of the Association of Residential and Letting Agents (Aria). "Rentals are also appearing as a viable alternative for people who want more flexibility, and who do not want to be tied to a mortgage," he says.

There is also an increase in the number of people who are renting simply because they have sold one property and are waiting to re-enter the market, as house prices continue to fall. Up to now, they have been right to do so. The most recent figures from the Halifax Building Society show that while house prices have started to stabilise in the past two months, they are still down 5 per cent on the figures for the same months last year.

"There are more promising signs for the housing market than there have been for some time," says Gary Marsh of the Halifax. "If there are more interest rate cuts and confidence picks up, the picture could change dramatically."

Zia Taylor, of letting agents Taylor Gibbs in Highgate, north London, says there is an active market in properties costing between £150 and £1,000 a week, particularly short lets.

In and around London, it is still possible to find bargains in areas where rapid development took

Despite lower interest rates, it will be some time before confidence returns to the house-buying market. Is renting an option?



Rent £300 a week: two beds on the river in Bermondsey

place in the 1980s. In Docklands, builders appear more willing to lower their prices than get nothing at all. The agents Carlton Smith & Partners is letting a two-bedroom flat in Bermondsey at £300 a week, the weekly rental on a well-furnished, two-bedroom flat with a River view on the Isle of Dogs is about £200.

Outside London, Robert Jordan of Robert Jordan and Associates in Wilmslow, Cheshire says: "Buying a house is no longer perceived as the way to get rich quick. People are buying somewhere to live in, not to make money from."

If he and his colleagues are right that the increased interest in renting is the start of a long-term trend, the change is likely to be gradual.

But a striking fact among many people who are renting a house is that they still see renting as a short-term option only. Despite all the publicity that has accompanied the heartache of repossession and the capriciousness of up-and-down interest rates, the aim of most people is still to buy their home.

KAY MARLES

THE idea that the only respectable way to occupy a house is to own it is a comparatively recent, middle-class phenomenon. Until well after the second world war, renting was considered an acceptable option.

Charing "the Age of Property" in *Holland's End* in 1910, when permanency was not to be confused with ownership, E.M. Forster observed: "The feudal ownership of land did bring dignity, whereas the modern ownership of movables is reducing us again to a nomadic order." Forster's childhood home was rented initially for three years; the family stayed for ten.

Since then the size of the rented sector has plummeted. By the time much-needed housing became available after the war, Labour legislation had begun to bite, restricting letting potential.

But both renting and letting acquired their definitive social stigma only in the combination of inferior properties and bad landlords, such as Rachman.

It has taken the Rent Act of 1977 and the Housing Acts of 1980 and 1988 (the latter introducing assured short-hold tenancies) to breathe a flicker of life into a moribund market.

"In the depression of the 1930s property became cheap to buy, and in a way the situation has gone full circle," says Neville Lee, chairman of Aria. "People are beginning to realise they can buy property for letting and their potential tenants are eager to avoid the perils of home ownership. The government is looking seriously at announcing initiatives to encourage investment in rental property."

If the way is now open in general for tenancy without tears, property at the top end of the market, the super-lets, has long enjoyed a charmed life. Prestige London property is sought after by corporate and foreign clients. Requirements can be exacting for a property worthy of the £5,000 to £6,000 a week which some tenants are prepared to pay.

Vicky Palau, of the agents Savills, reports: "We had a chairman of an investment bank who wished to bring his wife and five children to Britain for a year and was looking to spend around £5,000 a week for a prestige property in north

London. He could find nothing that was both big enough and up to the standard he required."

The most super of Savills' super-lets in Holland Villas Road, W11, has seven bedrooms, two swimming pools and a sauna: "Very much a family home," Mrs Palau says. Now on the market at £3,000 a week, it has been available for the summer months for £4,000, including two air pairs.

The problem is that whereas the selling price goes up the bigger and grander a house is, rental prices do not necessarily follow them," says Robert Orr-Ewing, of Knight, Frank and Rutley. Its super-lets range from a house with six bedrooms and five bathrooms in Victoria Road, W8, at £4,000 a week furnished, to a six-bedroom house in Kensington Square, at £3,000 a week unfurnished.

"People are prepared to pay £2,000 a week for a very nice house but it's a real struggle to get them to go over that figure," he says. "You are, therefore, almost always looking at individuals from overseas."

Country super-lets hold little

appeal for overseas visitors. Pereds of London tends to let its country houses on short leases. "Most of our tenants are European or American, owning or renting in London, who want somewhere within one and half hours commuting for the weekend," Victoria Matthews, of Pereds, says.

Paul Gregory, of Hamptons, says: "The values tend to be higher in the country and the rental return is not that brilliant: they are not going to fetch London prices." This is particularly true of property in Scotland. "The maximum one can achieve is about £1,000 a month un furnished," says Robert Balfour, of Bidwells Perth branch.

The acme of country super-lets is Kirtling Towers, five miles from Newmarket, Suffolk. Owned by Lord and Lady Painshaven, it is to let through Bidwells' Cambridge branch. With twin Elizabethan towers once the gatehouse to a moated castle which burnt down in the 16th century, and extended in Victorian times, the house has been comprehensively refurbished. It has nine bedrooms, six bathrooms, four/five reception rooms, and an octagonal library in one of the turrets. The black and white marble floor came from the original castle. King Harold had a deer park here, and Elizabeth I was detained in the castle at her sister's pleasure.

Three and a half acres surround the Towers, including a croquet lawn and a moated area with fountains. A further 15 acres are being restored to pre-1770 authenticity by the Painshavens. Staff cottages in Kirtling village are available, and there are facilities for helicopter landing in a nearby paddock. The lease is for one year, renewable, at a rent of £6,000 a month. No pets.

ELuned Price

Heap of the Week: Astley Castle, Warwickshire

Decay in a magical setting

A stey Castle awaits a latter-day Lord Curzon. The task is not so formidable as Bodiam or Tattershall — its proportions are smaller — but the building is in a very advanced state of decay.

Yet the setting is as magical as it is unexpected. Here, a few miles from the sprawl of Nuneaton and Coventry, is a delightful and largely unspoilt village in rural surroundings, dominated by a stately parish church.

Approaching from Nuneaton, there is a glimpse through the hedge of a lake beside the road.

A stey Castle: historic interest and not too large to be a house

with the castle just visible on rising parkland beyond. As you enter the park by a gate in the village there is a delightful 18th-century gothic barn begging for repair as a cottage. The castle is barely 100 yards away and the first glimpse proves to be the worst, for almost the whole west wall has collapsed.

A stey is encircled by an unusually deep-sea moat, partly filled

to Edward IV. It was later the home of Sir Henry Grey, Duke of Suffolk, and his daughter, Lady Jane Grey. Here is a castle of the highest historic interest, which is not too large to be a house again.

A stey has been part of the neighbouring estate of Arbury since the late 17th century. After occupation by the army during the second world war, it served as a hospital from 1947 until April 1978, when it caught fire on the last day of the lease. Severely damaged by smoke and flames, it was subsequently vandalised.

Estimates for refurbishment run well into six figures, largely because of the extensive masonry repairs needed. The castle is listed Grade II* and grant aid should be available from English Heritage.

MARCUS BINNEY

For further information call R.W. Thompson at Arbury Estates (0676 40529).

Taking cover

Credit Mutual,

based in Romford, Essex (0708 730236), charges £2.50 per £1,000 insured for buildings and £6 per £1,000 for contents. So the cost of insuring your French property for £40,000 and its

contents for £6,000, for example, would be £136 a year, plus £25 public liability extension, £12 emergency travel cover and a £5 administration charge.

CHERYL TAYLOR

Alternatively a British insurance company can effect cover for you, usually through Lloyd's. The advantage is that the policy is written in English, the premiums are payable in sterling, but most important of all any claims you make will be handled in England, instead of by long-distance correspondence with France.

Unlike the French system, British policies require you to insure specific sums in sterling. It is important to bear in mind that the cost of rebuilding that tumbledown farmhouse will probably be more than its value, and you must take currency fluctuations into account. Premiums are higher here than in France. A British insurance company, Holiday Homes Insurance Ltd (underwritten by London and Edinburgh through their European partners Assurances de

THE imposing *maison de maître* below, set in three acres of lawns, rose-beds and cow pastures a few miles from the pretty market town of Poix in Picardy, north of Paris, is for sale at £59,000. The property is in good condition, but needs central heating and some interior redecoration. It has three reception rooms and a kitchen with open stone fireplace and parquet floors, four bedrooms and two bathrooms plus a large attic.

The nearest ferry port, Dieppe, is about an hour's drive away. UK agent: Northern France Properties, 70 Brewer Street, London W1R 3PZ (071-287 4940).

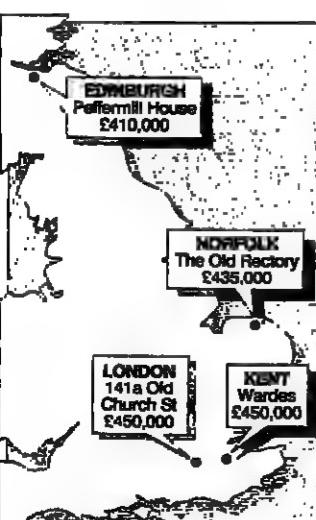
C.T.



Room to move: this imposing house with acres of lawns is £59,000

What £450,000 will buy

From a medieval mansion to a studio house in Chelsea, Caroline Morse has some suggestions



Edinburgh: restored Peffermill House, "Edinburgh's other castle", dates from the 17th century. The house has eight bedrooms, a great hall and library, and 3½ acres of woodland gardens. About £410,000. Contact Knight Frank & Rutley (031-225 7105).



Norfolk: The Old Rectory, in Baconsthorpe, is an 18th-century house with stabling and barn, five miles from the coast. It has ten bedrooms, four large reception rooms, playroom, conservatory and Victorian thatched summer-house. Organic gardens. About £435,000. Contact Bidwells (0603 763939).



Kent: Wardes, at Otham, is a Grade I listed medieval hall house in need of restoration, with four acres. It has oak studded and panelled doors, limewall panelling, eight bedrooms and seven reception rooms, including a 14th-century great hall. About £450,000. Contact John D. Wood & Co (071-352 1494).

Chelsea: two-bedroom studio house built between 1881 and 1886 by the sculptor Thomas Nelson Maclean, and later occupied by Katherine Mansfield. Split-level drawing room, kitchen/dining area, large terrace and a studio overlooking the garden. About £450,000. 141a Old Church Street, SW3. Contact John D. Wood & Co (071-352 1494).

Mellowing with the ages

Francesca

Greenoak sees how our gardens have grown in history

Maps, engravings and paintings of gardens have an unchangeable historical purity and distinctiveness. The landscapes themselves however have grown, blurred and changed down the years, reinventing themselves under the attentions of successive generations of gardeners, and in the light of ideas of later times.

Now a new exhibition, "The English Arcadia", presents fascinating documents covering nearly four centuries of garden history in National Trust properties — and provides the perfect excuse to visit the subjects themselves and compare past and present.

In some cases, the increments of centuries have improved the texture and richness. Consider the vibrancy of Powis Castle (near Welshpool) under the talented care of its present head gardener, Jimmy Hancock. The perspective view of Powis, made by Samuel and Nathaniel Buck in 1742, looks chilly and bare compared with the massive, dense yews and rich planting schemes of the present-day garden. The structure is, however, recognisable; it is still a great baroque garden, but now overlaid with the accretions and deletions of two and a half centuries.

The restored garden at Westbury Court in Gloucestershire, with its pretty, stilted summerhouse looking over the long fruit wall and ornamental canal, is the best surviving Anglo-Dutch garden in England. Created at the end of the 17th century, the original grandeur of its fine manor house (now gone) and larger grounds are delineated in a contemporary engraving. The revived fragment with its beautiful trained fruit and compartmentalised, flower-filled parterres captures the emphasis on horticulture so characteristic of Dutch style.

The main difference is that the work is done now by the knowledgeable and skilled head gardener and one assistant, backed by clipping and mowing machinery, rather than by a small army of garden staff. Westbury has become simultaneously an exercise in historical reconstruction and a model for the newly fashionable, low-maintenance formality.



Et in arcadia: looking chilly and bare in the 1742 view, Powis Castle today enjoys the fruits of rich planting schemes and lush growth

Biddulph Grange in Staffordshire is a 19th-century garden where notable plants were matched by a Victorian exuberance expressive of the curiosity, scholarship and pride of imperial Britain. Plants such as Japanese maples, peonies and hostas were arriving from the Far East, and interior gardens at Biddulph incorporating pagodas and even the great wall of China were built to receive them. A plan of the garden shows a progression of colonial landscapes. Walking through it broadens your understanding of Victorian energy, thoroughness and attitudes to the world. Jokingly backed on to a cottage frontage is an Aladdin-like Egyptian scene; there is an immense rockery, a remarkable collection of pines; and a devastatingly dramatic dahlias race with a yew backdrop and tiered display beds.

The Arcadia exhibition includes elaborate formal designs from

about 1720 for a French parterre and finely patterned topiary at Cliveden in Berkshire. In 1850, the house was rebuilt and a parterre of altogether more conspicuous kind developed by the gardener, John Fleming, who set a long-standing national fashion for spectacular biannual displays of bedding plants. There is still a parterre at Cliveden, but the design is for 20th-century taste and easier management.

Civeden also has a turn-of-the-century topiary garden, wall shrubs and herbaceous borders, an inviting water garden, and a more recent garden planned with shrub roses, designed by Geoffrey Jellicoe in 1959. The developments of different periods all took place within the basic structure of the early garden and the surrounding woodland with its dramatic glimpses of the River Thames. Now

as then, formal and semi-natural landscape forms, particularly beautiful on a misty autumn day, are juxtaposed.

The great landscape garden at Stowe, arguably the epitome of the English arcadia, is also at its best in autumn and winter. Stowe has always been a place of change. In its early days garden buildings were moved and amended as if they were theatre sets; natural growth and restoration also played their part. The enormous fund of documentation cannot be precisely reprinted, but it is continually consulted during the present restoration, as scrub is cut back to restore the original sense of structure, and vistas through the magnificent woodland and over the lakes are reopened, so that the interaction between different sections of the garden can again be appreciated. The garden temples, buildings and statuary, grandioses and witty in their own day, still command admiration and amusement, combined with sheer pleasure at the inventiveness of this landscape.

The restoration and care of landscapes is not simple even when there is ample documentation: for what can be considered the correct point of reference for a garden which has developed over centuries? The answer seems to be to treat each place intuitively in the light of extant information, and to interpret the landscape in the spirit of the dominating conception. Gardens, like houses, can be redeveloped in accord with the intention of the original.

• An English Arcadia" is at 38 Burgh Street, London SW1 until Oct 15; then York City Art Gallery (Nov 21-Jan 3 1993) and City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery (Jan 16-Feb 28). All the gardens mentioned above are open to the public until the end of October, and some throughout the winter. For opening times telephone the National Trust (0171-222 9251) or consult the NT handbook.

Chart the course of a valuable hobby

East and west, whatever their references, antique maps have global appeal

Maps must be one of the few fields of antiques which offer such diversity of subject and the opportunity to start collecting examples for less than £40. By comparison with well-established markets, such as period porcelain or silver, historic maps are undervalued.

For some 1,500 years Claudius Ptolemy's *Geographia*, whose first printed edition was made in 1477, influenced cartography.

The range of mapping subjects produced since the 15th century is immense, with the majority of maps for sale removed from their bound volumes and offered as loose sheets.

One of the most popular themes for a map collection is a particular locality, perhaps a country, or even a county. While a map of the British Isles from the Ulm Ptolemy first edition to be printed north of the Alps can command £7,200, John

Arrowsmith's finely engraved England (48cmx36cm) from 1842 is only £60, according to the Jonathan Potter, the London dealer.

English county maps have a strong following. Look particularly for those by John Speed. Blaeu's mid-17th century fine engraving on to quality paper has ensured that a single example can cost £450. Depending upon its condition, colouring and edition, a Speed can cost up to £1,100. The most sought after Blaeu and Speed county maps are of Cornwall and the Home Counties.

The 57 maps and plans produced for Thomas Moule's *The English Counties Delineated*, dating from 1830 and appearing originally as a part-work, are much in demand. They are decorative and display good detail, and cost about £65-£70 for most counties, and £85 for Gloucestershire and Hampshire.

Maps of specific countries vary considerably in interest. The Far

East and Japan is still comparatively a strong market. Maps of Italy have been much in demand over the past 15 months North America is also a popular subject, particularly those early maps which show California as an island, and can cost as much as £3,500.

One tip when purchasing antique maps is to buy them un-



Worldly: Philip Curris at The Map House

framed and have the shop or dealer charge separately for the framing. You then pay VAT on the frame alone and not on the much more expensive map. Ensure that "conservation" or "museum" board is used for mounting.

CONAL GREGORY

To learn more, read both the County Life Book of Antique Maps by Porter and Mouter's County Maps of Old England with a modern Introduction by Burnet (Studio Editions).

Good map dealers: The Map House, 54 Burgh Street, London SW1 (071-222 9251); Ian R. Deverall, Dunel House, The Glen, Cambridge Way, Uckfield, Sussex TN22 2AB (0825 762474); Jonathan Potter, BADA, 125 New Bond Street, London, W1Y 9AF (071-491 3520); O'Shea Gallery, BADA, 89 Lower Sloane Street, London, SW1W 8DA (071-730 0081); Roderick Barron, 21 Bayham Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 3XD (0732 742558); The Petersfield Bookshop, BADA, 16a Chapel Street, Petersfield, Hants, GU32 3DS (0730 263438); BADA signifies member of The British Antique Dealers' Association.

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An evening without chemistry

Benedict Nightingale admits to war weariness with Tony Harrison

Le'ts hand it to Tony Harrison: when it comes to taking theatrical risks, he has no rival. In his *Trackers of Oxyphynxus*, he reconstructed a Greek satyr play and used it to protest against our cardboard cities. In his still-unperformed *The Common Chorus*, he transposed *Lysistrata* to Greenham Common. Deft rhymes, a social conscience, Hellenic scholarship — who else can bring all three to a single play?

Square Rounds is, if anything, more eccentric. True, it has no obvious Greek prototype; but Harrison's other trademarks are at their most emphatic. No other playwright would dare write a dramatic poem about the propensity of chemists to put their inventions to military as well as humane uses. Sadly, there were also times at the National when I wondered if any other playwright would want to do so. Even Harrison has trouble fulfilling a brief that one character sums up as "versifying the death of fertiliser".

The production, sponsored by KPMG Management Consulting and directed by Harrison himself, opens arrestingly enough. A phalanx of figures in top hats and frock coats — half-undertakers, half-magicians — march menacingly forward. Vaguely martial music blends with

THEATRE

Square Rounds

Olivier

coughing, as from men dying from mustard gas. Women brandishing flags appear, then munitions workers, and then nurses. They open their Red Cross boxes to reveal parts of a machine-gun, which they nimbly assemble. Then the play proper begins with some chauvinistic banter between the German scientist Fritz Haber and a war-damaged British cavalry attendant and it is downhill most of the way afterwards.

The laundry man soon disappears but Haber is as near to a main character as Harrison's meandering narrative allows. The disappearance of horse manure with the arrival of the motor car apparently caused a crisis for Europe's crops. Hence the importance of Haber, who successively transformed nitrogen into nitrate fertiliser and fertiliser into TNT. In science the power to improve and to destroy are hard to disentangle, or so it seems.

Much the same point is often repeated during the evening. Did



Women of war: Maria Friedman and Sara Kestelman — are they cast as a backhanded tribute to women who invented weapons?

you know that the same chap invented the Maxim machine-gun and the oxygen inhaler? No, nor did I. Did you know that Haber went on to turn dye into a poison gas so effective that had the Kaiser grabbed his chance, he might have been thrown through to Calais? Harrison throws out quite a few facts, some interesting and relevant enough, others far less so.

All are, however, poorly dramatised. There is no tension,

little momentum. Largely, the evening consists of Haber and those other frock-coated figures coming forward, talking about their achievements, and disingenuously arguing that the more devastating the weaponry, the shorter wars will be. There are a few of those clever rhymes for which Harrison is famous; but even he has trouble bringing verve to lines that concern trinitrofuran or end with references to 2NH3.

Some are sung, by way of giving

them a lift, disguising their dullness, or both. Others are accompanied by conjuring tricks. Scarves change colour to symbolise "the modern scientist's magic wand"; flags sprout from wands in reference to British or German nationalism, and so on. But I still sometimes found myself fidgeting at the back of the theatrical classroom, a bally schoolkid unwilling to swallow the pill my teachers were strenuously sugar-coating.

All the scientists, indeed almost all

the characters, are played by women. Sara Kestelman's sinuous Haber and Paola Dionisotti's vivacious Maxim prime among them. Why is not clear. Is it a backhanded tribute to those women who, the programme tells us, invented weapons of war and received scant credit for doing so? Or because the incongruity of the casting has an oddly sinister effect? As often during the play, my response must be to blink, shrug, and admit defeat.

Baffled by he and she

— THEATRE —

The Darling Family
Old Red Lion

A ll sorts of plays can lacerate a critic. The dialogue in this two-hander by Canadian Linda Griffiths lacerated a Toronto critic. "Lacerating dialogue," he or she says. "Self-lacerating monologues," she or he adds. "An extremely brave play," reports someone in Winnipeg.

The set (by Fay Saxy) announces the kind of play this will surely be. One end of an iron bed sticks out from the crumpled grey carpet like a spa from a wrecked shin; beyond it an empty bath tilts like a boat on a wave, the umbilical cord of a telephone connects the bath to an opened splintered ladder. This ladder is the vital clue. A ladder means that a play will delve into the workings of a tormented, nay self-lacerating, mind.

The barefooted woman, identified in the programme as She, begins with her dream of being raped and made pregnant by her big father. She is 12 years old at the time. Is She remembering fact or fantasy? I don't know. In the next scene She discovers She has been made pregnant, though not raped, by He. Does She want to give birth to the child? Possibly.

For comfort She touches a crystal, being a New Age person. She also throws the *I Ching*, which delivers a message She understands but not He, because He is into Heavy Metal and doesn't believe in Magic. However, He did once identify with Peter Pan, and so did She. I am sorry to say that the title refers to this, so presumably neither of them wants to grow up, though unlike Peter they aren't having fun meantime.

The rest of the play invites us to wonder what this trying woman will decide to do. The author has already loaded her with self-dramatising expressions, and Janine Wünsche's direction has encouraged Gina Landor to pose, placing fingers to her mouth, stealing silently into the bath, creeping cat-like over the bed. A real dilemma is thus made fearfully artificial. Kieron Jechirius's role is to be vacillating but concerned, and he does this likely enough despite being given no lines to explain how the ordeal increases his love for her. Since love gets its first mention only at the final embrace the play may be posing as a fable for grown-ups. At least nobody climbs the ladder and flies away to lacerate the pirates.

JEREMY KINGSTON

ROCK: David Sinclair reviews Mark Almond at the Albert Hall, plus new albums from Peter Gabriel and the Jayhawks

Perils of putting on the glitz



Almond: reconrite vision

After three hours and at least eight costume changes, Marc Almond was still going strong. "I hope you're happy now you've all missed your last trains home," he quipped blithely, a joke which seemed to win less than universal appreciation.

The billing had promised "Twelve Years Of Tears", a concert comprising highlights from the length of Almond's career. Somewhere in the audience was his former colleague David Ball, the other half of the duo Soft Cell, with whom Almond first made his name in the early Eighties.

On stage there were over-exposed dancers, an under-employed percussionist, backing singers and a few other musicians. And on hand to supply a suitably epic touch during the second half were the massed ranks of the Tenebment Symphony Orchestra, its conductor clad in ear-defenders as he guided the strings in their unequal struggle against

the remorseless, Hi-NRG thump of the synth and drum machine arrangements.

It should have been a bold and colourful celebration of a performer who has clung to his own reconrite vision and survived in the face of chang-

ing fashions. Almond has, among other things, become the modern torchbearer for European songwriters like Brecht, Weill and Brecht. With his mannered vocal style and passionately arch personality, he has established himself as the master of the three-minute pop melodrama. But stretched out to this length the fault lines in his performance were exposed.

For one thing, despite his exquisitely precise enunciation and the baroque flourishes in his phrasing, he often betrayed a worrying inability to pitch the song in the same key as his accompanists. At his best, during a voice and piano medley including "Stories of Johnny", "Black Lullabye" and Peter Hammill's "Just Good Friends", he injected a fraught passion into lyrics exploring the dark side of the emotional psyche. But too often the gulf between ambition and ability was revealed as he wandered into realms of bathos and the

empty gesture, most notably on an overwrought version of Brecht's "If You Go Away".

Dressed at some point in everything from a formal black suit and white ruffled shirt to an aluminium foil jumpsuit, Almond strutted and struck poses like a cross between a catwalk model and a showroom dummy, the blue tattoo on his neck looking from the distance like an angry lovebite.

One costume change was effected on stage, pantomime style, behind a screen, and the show generally trod an unreliable line between energetic glitz and plain old sleaze. Compared to recent spectacles by the new breed of pop showmen, Erasure and even the Pet Shop Boys, it was tacky stuff.

"Tainted Love" and "Say Hello Wave Goodbye" were saved for the end of the marathon, by which time sandwiches and coffee would have been more welcome.

When he is not acting as the liberal conscience of rock, or discovering and nurturing musicians from every corner of the globe, or writing soundtracks for other people's movies, Peter Gabriel occasionally makes an album of his own. It last happened in 1986, when *So* deservedly became a massive worldwide success.

If Gabriel wants to take a long time making his records, that is his affair. But be warned: first impressions of his new album, *US* (Real World PGCD 7), suggest that an unusually long time may also need to be spent listening to it before it eventually rewards its charms.

The majority of the songs are long and slow, their exotic instrumental textures and gentle rhythmic undulations shimmering like tarmac in a heat haze. Gabriel's voice, assisted by Sinéad O'Connor on some tracks, is now a wonderfully weathered and cracked instrument, but the dreary lyrics are clearly the product of too much regression therapy: "I need to be needed when my self-esteem is

that he has shut out the daylight.

There has been a lot of talk lately about the new New Country rockers — not people like Garth Brooks and Billy Ray Cyrus, who are really pop singers in cowboy hats, but younger, going-to groups like the Rockingbirds whose manner is a lot more unruly and whose stage banner boasts a picture of the late country-rock pioneer Gram Parsons.

By far the best exponents of this resurrected genre are the Jayhawks from Minneapolis, whose rough and ready third album *Hollywood Town Hall* (Def American 512 986-2) is a delight. Produced by George Drakoulis — the man who signed and co-produced the Black Crowes — the Jayhawks combine an appreciation of the best country-rock traditions (Neil Young, Bob Dylan et al), with a trenchant blast of youthful passion. Vocalist Mark Olson has a biting, astringent rasp while guitarist Gary Louris plays with tremendous, controlled aggression (with Daniel Lanois) these ten new numbers. Gabriel seems to have dug so far into his soul

that he is too sombre?

There is an overall mood of *US* is sombre and overcast, at times weirdly so. In writing, performing and co-producing (with Daniel Lanois) these ten new numbers, Gabriel seems to have dug so far into his soul

that he has shut out the daylight.

There has been a lot of talk lately about the new New

Slow but not sure



Gabriel: too sombre?

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CONCERTS

Dominic Muldowney's new Oboe Concerto is instantly likeable. That is not to say it is superficial, though this does not set out to be a work of searching questions. As such it made a happy companion for a lacerating performance of Mahler's Fifth Symphony, whipped out of the London Symphony Orchestra by Michael Tilson Thomas (Barbican, Wednesday).

Muldowney's work was an LSO commission for principal oboist Roy Carter, though early in its genesis the composer had apparently "heard" it as much for a soprano as for a wind instrument. Its subtitle, "song-cycle for oboe and orchestra", refers to that. The songs move from an elusive dance which could have been (and perhaps, one day, will be) written for Ariel himself, to a buzy summer song, a lilting waltz and a final rhythmically complex romp ending in a sudden fade-out. This was the sort of piece one wanted to hear again immediately: to pin down its structure, to enjoy the full its deft orchestration.

Mahler as maturing orchestrator clearly gripped the imagination of Tilson Thomas that evening, as he and the LSO gloried in the orchestra as virtuoso instrument. But what made this performance far more than an indulgent exercise in sonorities was Tilson Thomas's sense of drama in both inflection and in the spare flicking of percussion.

The oboe barely stops singing, and Roy Carter's was a performance of stamina as much as of intellectual and imaginative virtuosity. The four "songs" are breathed in and out of life by oboe recitatives, sinuously oriental in both inflection and in the spare flicking of percussion.

In spite of the disavowals of the composer, Vaughan Williams's London Symphony is patently rooted in the sounds of the Edwardian metropolis. Local colour is present in the chiming of Westminster, the cries of the street vendors and the street bustle — for all that the lifestyle seems leisurely by demented modern standards.

Yet Vaughan Williams was right to emphasise that these are surface elements only.

What came across from Andrew Davis's performance with the BBC Symphony Orchestra (Festival Hall, Wednesday) was that at certain key points the symphony seems to enter a different dimension, where specific location is no longer relevant.

The first is the slow-move-

continuum of energy, binding its contrasts together.

The evening before, the English Chamber Orchestra under Sir Colin Davis gave a "nearly-new" premiere of the first performance of an arrangement for string orchestra by David Matthews and Sir Colin himself of Beethoven's String Quartet, Op. 127. Nothing in the original texture was changed, except that a double bass doubling had been added here and there.

So much for the how: the why was less clear. The ECO made as strong a case for the exercise as was possible, but paradoxically the scale of the music is reduced when its parts are materially expanded. How the opening chords shrink when they have found the resonance they so powerfully sought. And how the harmonic and rhythmic tension of the second and last movements falls in proportion to its density. Beethoven knew what he was about after all.

HILARY FINCH

various folksong, march and ragtime passages. They also proved sympathetic accompanists to Joshua Bell in a performance of Prokofiev's First Violin Concerto that emphasised not the work's spiky virtuosity, but its plaintive lyricism.

Alexander Goehr's 1963 Little Symphony begins with a chorale-like passage that could have come from *Parisijs*: its rarefied, mystic harmonies tinged with a hint of decadence. That spirit hovers in the air when the chorale returns at the end. In between, Goehr ranges across more characteristic post-Schoenbergian territory in a tightly constructed set of variations, a quasi-Classical scherzo and a spacious finale.

BARRY MILLINGTON

Songs, but not for voices

This finds a counterpart in the characteristic Muldowney patterning of fragmented rhythmic shapes as the orchestra's soloists accompany the oboe.

The songs move from an elusive dance which could have been (and perhaps, one day, will be) written for Ariel himself, to a buzy summer song, a lilting waltz and a final rhythmically complex romp ending in a sudden fade-out. This was the sort of piece one wanted to hear again immediately: to pin down its structure, to enjoy the full its deft orchestration.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

The cult of Callas

Callas remains the most influential opera singer of the post-war period, perhaps of the entire century. Of the world's most famous sopranos today — Jessye Norman, Kiri Te Kanawa, Kathleen Battle — not one of them can hold a candle to the individual interpretive genius of Callas.

Hugh Canning on Maria Callas — in *The Culture*, *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

Photo: PA

Photo: PA

Photo: PA

Photo: PA

Photo: PA

SATURDAY OCTOBER 3 1992

SUNDAY TELEVISION AND RADIO

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BBC1

- 7.15 Film: *The Night of the Party* (1934, b/w) starring Leslie Banks and Ian Hunter. A ruthless press baron is murdered. Directed by Michael Powell (26/569).
- 8.15 *Film: Pardon Us* (1931, b/w). Laurel and Hardy meet a bunch of misfits when they are sent to prison. Directed by James Parrott (24/05/100). 9.10 News and weather (28/88/1).
- 9.15 *Start Your Own Religion*. Colm Morris examines religion's claim that it fulfills basic human needs (3/21/58/10).
- 9.30 *This is the Day*. Norma Craddock talks to students of Atlantic College in the Vale of Glamorgan (5/88/7).
- 10.00 *See Hear! A Report on the drama competition at the British Drama Association Congress* (s) (7/15/3).
- 10.30 *Inside English*. Continuing the series designed to assist in organising language skills (4/86/48/9). 10.45 *Lingot How to Learn a Language* (t) (4/85/09/4).
- 11.00 *Airline Ahead*. Magazine series exploring the world of training (s) (30/94).
- 11.30 *Winning*. The second in a six-part series on small businesses (4/72/3).
- 12.00 *Spain on a Plate*. María José Sáenz continues her gastronomic journey around Spain (t). (Ceefax) (4/31/00).
- 12.30 *Country File* presented by John Craven (8/21/58/7). 12.55 *Weather* (5/30/66/568).
- 1.00 *News* (22/24/04/75). 1.05 *On the Record* presented by Jonathan Dimbleby. The guest is Kenneth Clarke MP (5/83/365).
- 2.00 *EastEnders*. Omnibus edition (n). (Ceefax) (s) (5/79/2).
- 3.00 *El Dorado* (n). (Ceefax) (s) (6/100).
- 3.30 *Hizz Doctor in the House* (1954). First and still the freshest of the St. Swinith's saga, starring Dick Bogarde. Directed by Ralph Thomas (7/49/66/3). 4.15 *Cartoon* (8/85/48/7).
- 5.05 *25 Years on Radio 1*. Film of Radio 1's party to celebrate its 25th birthday (s) (5/55/89/1).
- 5.45 *It's a Clever Show*. Jeff Banks, Selina Scott and Caryl Franklin return with a new series of the fashion guide. (Ceefax) (s) (5/52/78).
- 6.10 *The Survival Guide to Food*. Cheryl Baker looks at the problems that can arise when eating out. (Ceefax) (s) (7/35/65).
- 6.20 *News with Moira Stewart*. Weather (5/88/1).
- 6.35 *Songs of Praise from Truro Cathedral*. (Ceefax) (s) (8/18/78).
- 7.15 *Keeping Up Appearances*. Patricia Routledge stars as Roy Clarke's one-joke comedy about a suburban snob. (Ceefax) (s) (7/12/70).
- 7.45 *The House of Eliot*. Polished period drama starring Stella Gonet and Louise Lombard. (Ceefax) (s) (8/65/346).
- 8.40 *Birds of a Feather*. Pauline Quirk and Linda Robson star as the wise-cracking sisters from Chigwell, whose patience is tested when their aunt comes to convalesce. (Ceefax) (s) (9/51/62).
- 9.10 *News with Martyn Lewis*. (Ceefax) Weather (9/21/77).



Framed: Steven Waddington as an aspiring boxer (9.25pm)

- 9.25 *Screen One: Seconds Out*.
- **CHOICE:** Having given us one study of a brutal all-male world in *Civiles* Lynda La Plante here offers another as she turns her incisive pen to boxing. Steven Waddington, who played Edward II for Derek Jarman, stars as an aspiring champion who is framed by a crooked promoter (Colin Cowey) and forced to further his career in the dangerous underworld of unlicensed fights. Essentially it is the exploitation-of-a-hungry-fighter story, familiar from a dozen movies. But La Plante gives it satisfying complexity and, her usual hard edge. An excellent supporting cast includes Tom Bell and Derek Newark. Indeed the writing and acting are strong enough not to need such flashy embellishment - by the director Bruce MacDonald. An arresting visual style is one thing. Eccentric camera angles and gimmicky lighting effects are quite another. (Ceefax) (s) (20/57/04).
- 10.55 *Everyman: Lifeline*. A documentary about the remarkable relationship between a retired music teacher from Berkshire and a middle-aged window cleaner from California in solitary confinement on Florida's Death Row (n). (Ceefax) (4/28/93).
- 11.35 *Black and White in Colour: Television, Memory, Race*, 1968-92. The second of two documentaries charting black and Asian contributions to British television (t) (20/76/3).
- 12.25 *Sam Weather* (4/95/02/2).

BBC2

- 7.00 *Felix the Cat*. Feline fun (5/58/810). 7.45 *Playdays* (t) (4/15/56/8). 8.10 *Smooches* (t) (7/44/13/4). 8.30 *Animal Album*, featuring monkeys and apes (t) (s) (7/45/075). 8.50 *Onnile and Cuddles* (t) (5/51/018). 9.15 *Bliss* (t) (s) (7/45/21/3). 9.15 *The Legend of Prince Midas*. A teenager's quest for Camelot (s) (12/27/076). 9.40 *The Miner, the Barber, Ross King and Ginky Butler* introduce a new game show (3/20/177). 10.05 *Thundershower* (t) (7/80/45/5). 10.30 *Heads, Jack and the Dark Side of the Moon* starring Paul Jones (s) (5/19/181). 10.45 *Blue Peter* (Ceefax) (t) (s) (5/19/181). 10.45 *The Zone*. Pop music magazine (s) (4/45/98/8).
- 11.00 *Thunderbirds*. Cult puppet series created by Sylvia and Gerry Anderson (t). (Ceefax) (s) (5/30/81).
- 11.30 *The Inspector*. Classic American science-fiction series starring Roy Thinnes as an alien-hunter (5/71/24/6).
- 1.45 *Flight: Masters of the Universe* (1987). Muscle man Dolph Lundgren saves the distant planet of Eternia from the evil Skeletor. Simple-minded science fiction adventure, directed by Gary Goddard. (Ceefax) (s) (3/89/60/1).
- 2.35 *The Telephone*. Vicki Hamilaine Carole Farley stars in two operas whose plots centre on love/hate relationships, with the telephone (5/15/54/2).
- 4.30 *Great Sporting Moments*. Tony Jacklin and Lee Trevino's epic battle in the 1972 British Open Golf Championship (t) (7/90/010).
- 4.50 *Replay Special*. Chris Rees introduces the first programme of a new series. Today, the Courage National League division one match between Wags and Leicester (4/28/471).
- 5.30 *One Man and His Dog*. Phil Daniels introduces the finals of the singles and brace championships from the Lake District (s) (7/87/56/9).
- 6.35 *The Money Programme*. Tessa Curtis reports on how Russia's diamond industry could threaten the monopoly which De Beers have held for more than 50 years (7/86/100).
- 7.15 *The Living Planet*. David Attenborough explores the life in and around the Amazon (t). (Ceefax) (s) (2/69/26).
- 8.10 *Did You See...? Thriller*. Writer Ken Follett, comedian and racehorse owner Ettie Retief and public relations consultant and television presenter Marcella Frostrup join Jeremy Paxman to discuss *Inside Story*. *The Assassin*, *Tramer* and *The Big Breakfast* (s) (3/20/04).
- 8.40 *ITV*.
- **CHOICE:** The relationship between the fashion industry and the press is a complex one which goes beyond the indignations supposedly offered to journalists in the shape of lavish hospitality and free clothes. The thesis of this programme is that designers need the press as much as the press needs designers, the one to sell their wares, the other to fill editorial columns and attract advertising. So is there an unstated collusion, in which the designer's message becomes translated into the fashion editor's story? The film suggests that if you are looking for a critical appraisal of the new collections you are more likely to find it in newspapers than the glossy magazines which cannot afford to turn away lucrative advertising. Indeed a spokeswoman from *Vogue* admits as much when she says: "We're here to celebrate fashion, not to destroy it." (14/29/7).
- 9.30 *Building Signs: Odile Decq*. The new-wave architect sings the praises of a council housing complex in the French city of Nimes, designed by the architect Jean-Michel and built in 1981 (5/86/35/9).
- 9.40 *It's a Wonderful Life*. Ray McGrath invites his guests to become their favourite fictional character. This week, John Bird is Napoleon, Kit Hesketh-Harvey is Vita Sackville-West and Kathy Burke is Mona Lisa (s) (13/27/6).



Intense performance: Meryl Streep plays Sophie (10.10pm)

- 10.10 *Film: Sophie's Choice* (1982). Meryl Streep won an Academy Award for her intense performance in the title role of this powerful, sometimes heavy-going, drama about a Polish concentration camp survivor and her Jewish lover. Directed by Alan J. Pakula (5/68/78/9).
- 12.30am *The Night Stalker*. Last in the series of supernatural dramas starring Darren McGavin (9/23/94/0). Ends at 1.35

ITV

- 6.00 *TV-am* (6/23/23/4). 6.25 *Disney Club*. Richard Oxford, Andrea Boardman and Paul Hendy are joined by Betty Boop and the *Frágidares* (4/05/74).
- 10.45 *Link*. Sam Vasey looks at a new report that cars disabled people are badly represented by television. (Oracle) (4/84/71/2).
- 11.00 *Morning Worship* from the Poor Clare Monastery in Akyrie, Herefordshire (4/80/94).
- 12.00 *The Human Factor*. Ted Harrison reports on Beechdy Collocaugh, whose addiction to amphetamines, maths and aftercare brought him to the depths of degradation, a decade ago. Today he runs a recovery centre in Kent where he counsels people suffering from a variety of addictions. (Oracle) (4/55/88).
- 12.30 *An Invitation to Retirement*. Actor Richard Todd looks back on his life and career (8/13/65). 12.55 *LWT News* (5/22/6/36).
- 1.00 *News with Anne Leachman*. Weather (2/30/84/2). 1.10 *WBT News* (7/10/76/5).
- 2.00 *Gulliver*. Dan and Nigel knowledge quiz (s) (2/23/3).
- 2.30 *The London Match*. Live coverage of the match between Brentford and Newcastle United from Griffin Park (s) (G/91/11/63).
- 5.05 *Maywatch*. Another tale of the impossible lottery legends of Los Angeles County (s) (6/20/16/2).
- 6.00 *Animal Country*. Desmond Morris and Sarah Kennedy continue their travels through Norfolk and Suffolk (2/23/1).
- 6.30 *News with Anne Leachman*. Weather (2/34/87). 6.35 *LWT News* (2/27/58).
- 6.40 *Highway*. Harry Secombe travels to Ebbw Vale in South Wales to visit the National Garden Festival on its last day. (Oracle) (9/79/05).
- 6.50 *News with Anne Leachman*. Weather (5/24/88/1).
- 7.15 *You've Been Framed!* Jeremy Beadle introduces more amateur out-takes (s) (6/19/47/1).
- 7.45 *The Ruth Randall Mysteries: The Speaker of Mandarin*. Reg Westford is convinced that the key to Adela Knighton's murder somewhere in China, but Mike Burden is not so sure. (Oracle) (5/22/26).
- 8.45 *London's Burning*. Colin's probationary period is over and he is about to discover whether he will be accepted as a fire-fighter. (Oracle) (8/88/94).
- 9.45 *News with Anne Leachman*. Weather (5/92/27/8).
- 10.05 *Splitting Image*. The latex lookalikes return with their irreverent lampooning of people in the news (2/25/97).



Still swearing: unrepentant comic Billy Connolly (10.35pm)

- 10.35 *The South Bank Show*.
- **CHOICE:** Graying, beardless but still subversive, Billy Connolly marks his 25 years in showbusiness with a friendly profile featuring his one-man show and an interview with Melvyn Bragg. Since the stage material is almost entirely autobiographical, the two elements go effortlessly together. One minute Connolly is telling Bragg about childhood beatings from a sadistic aunt; the next the same episode is related in comic form to a 3000-strong audience in Glasgow. *Anecdote*, rather than one-liners, is the stuff of Connolly's act and a hard early life continues to provide rich pickings. Apart from the beard, Connolly has given up drink and smoking. He has not managed to eschew the f-word, much in evidence in this film. He says swearing is a rhythmic thing and he feels his show would be more pretentious without it (5/87/07).
- 11.35 *Cue the Music: The Chieftains* live at the Glastonbury Music Festival (9/48/47/1).
- 12.35am *Derrick*. German police drama (9/22/38/9).
- 1.45 *The ITV Chat Show* (t) (s) (4/28/85).
- 2.50 *Night Heat*. Canadian crime drama (1/19/85).
- 3.50 *Pick of the Week*. Paul Coia reviews highlights of regional television (3/40/3124).
- 4.15 *Memories 1970-1991*. Robert Powell narrates memorable moments from 1974 (5/78/47/6).
- 5.15 *Out of Limits* (4/63/85).
- 5.30 *ITV Morning News* (9/85/01). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 *Trans World Sport* (t) (4/57/58). 7.00 *Take 5* (r) (4/11/81). 7.30 *Laurel and Hardy* Cartoon (4/45/83/9). 7.35 *Little Wizards*. First of a 13-part series of animated adventures (4/14/84/2). 8.00 *Sandokan*. Cartoon pirates (3/72/3). 8.30 *Wish Kid*. A boy's magic glove will fulfil his every wish (3/20/4). 9.00 *Spacecats*. Animated science fiction (4/14/87).
- 9.45 *Flapper*. Classic adventures of the friendly dolphin (5/83/74).
- 10.15 *It Witch's Wear*. Stories about a group of mixed ability children learning to ride (s) (5/75/23).
- 10.45 *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*. Adventures of an extraordinary submarine and her captain (3/50/63).
- 11.45 *Little House on the Prairie*. Trairs and tribulations of a close-knit Kansas plains family starring Michael Landon (5/30/013).
- 12.40 *McMahon's Sons*: *Gerald McBoing Boing*, an Oscar-winning cartoon directed by Bobo Cannon and written by Dr Seuss; and *Cockaboo* (5/86/20/75).
- 12.55 *Films: Birth*. *Spirit* (1945, b/w). Rex Harrison and Constance Cummings star in a delightful screen adaptation of Noel Coward's comedy about a winter haunted by the spirit of his first wife, Margaret Rutherford goes scene-stealing as the medium, Madame Arcati. Directed by David Lean (4/28/62/78).
- 2.45 *Football Italia*. Napoli v Juventus (5/23/88/56).
- 5.15 *Answering Back*. Susanna Simons talks to David Sainsbury, chairman designate of Sainsbury's (1/35/47/1).
- 6.00 *Miraculous Mollie*. Fantasy series for children. Jane and Ralph adopt disputes to enable them to mingle with the earthlings (3/65).
- 6.30 *The Cosby Show*. American family comedy. (Teletext) (6/17).



Home and away: the American mobile home craze (7.00pm)

- 7.00 *Equinox*.
- **CHOICE:** Although *Equinox* has little of either as it explores the past and United States mobile homes. Admittedly the first section on design which demonstrates how much trailers and motorhomes have moved to techniques developed in the aircraft industry. But the main thrust is sociological and ideological, stressing how the house on wheels has echoed the American yearning to be free. Perhaps not too fancifully a comparison is drawn between the RV (recreational vehicle) brigade of the 20th century and the wagon trains which helped to open up the American west. For light relief the film has assembled a delectable group of mobile home eccentrics, including a taxidermist, an evangelist and the man who claims to be owner of the world's biggest flag. (Teletext) (9/90/7).
- 8.00 *Tights Camera Action!* Choreographer Stefan Schneider's fresh look at puddles and Compagnie Astrakan jump to it with *Waterproof* (s) (7/83).
- 8.30 *American Football*. Mick Luckhurst and Gary Imbach introduce action between the Miami Dolphins and the Buffalo Bills (3/92/26).
- 10.00 *Film: Tap* (1988) starring Gregory Hines and, in his last film, Sammy Davis Jr. An ex-con torn between a life of crime and his talent as a dancer. Routine story, wonderful dancing. Directed by Nick Castle. (Teletext) (s) (1/20).
- 12.00 *Film: Why Bodhi-Dharma Left for the East?* (1989). An old Zen master lives in a mountain monastery with his two disciples. The three characters, who represent humanity, struggle to resolve the dilemmas of existence. In Korean with English subtitles (6/03/4124). Ends at 2.35am.

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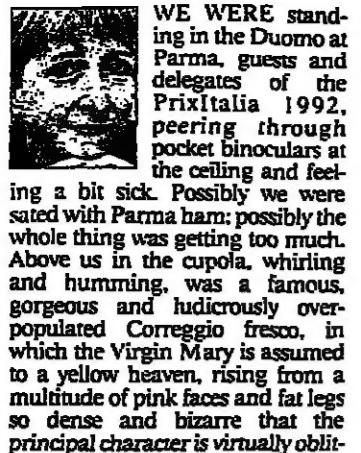
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- 8.30 *American Football*. Mick Luckhurst and Gary Imbach introduce action between the Miami Dolphins and the Buffalo Bills (3/92/26).
- 10.00 *Film: Tap* (1988) starring Gregory Hines and, in his last film, Sammy Davis Jr. An ex-con torn between a life of crime and his talent as a dancer. Routine story, wonderful dancing. Directed by Nick Castle. (Teletext) (s) (1/20).
- 12.00 *Film: Why Bodhi-Dharma Left for the East?* (1989). An old Zen master lives in a mountain monastery with his two disciples. The three characters, who represent humanity, struggle to resolve the dilemmas of existence. In Korean with English subtitles (6/03/4124). Ends at 2.35am.

- 1.00 *Equinox*.
- **CHOICE:** Graying, beardless but still subversive, Billy Connolly marks his 25 years in showbusiness with a friendly profile featuring his one-man show and an interview with Melvyn Bragg. Since the stage material is almost entirely autobiographical, the two elements go effortlessly together. One minute Connolly is telling Bragg about childhood beatings from a sadistic aunt; the next the same episode is related in comic form to a 3000-strong audience in Glasgow. *Anecdote*, rather than one-liners, is the stuff of Connolly's act and a hard early life continues to provide rich pickings. Apart from the beard, Connolly has given up drink and smoking. He has not managed to eschew the f-word, much in evidence in this film. He says swearing is a rhythmic thing and he feels his show would be more pretentious without it (5/87/07).
- 11.35 *Cue the Music: The Chieftains* live at the Glastonbury Music Festival (9/48/47/1).
- 12.35am *Derrick*. German police drama (9/22/38/9).
- 1.45 *The ITV Chat Show* (t) (s) (4/28/85).
- 2.50 *Night Heat*. Canadian crime drama (1/19/85).
- 3.50 *Pick of the Week*. Paul Coia reviews highlights of regional television (3/40/3124).
- 4.15 *Memories 1970-1991*. Robert Powell narrates memorable moments from 1974 (5/78/47/6).
- 5.15 *Out of Limits* (4/63/85).
- 5.30 *ITV Morning News* (9/85/01). Ends at 6.00

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Hamming it up in Parma

Lynne Truss emerges, blinking, from the darkened rooms of an Italian palazzo to report on the Prix Italia proceedings



TV REVIEW

WE WERE standing in the Duomo at Parma, guess and delegates of the Prix Italia 1992, peering through pocket binoculars at the ceiling and feeling a bit sick. Possibly we were sated with Parma ham; possibly the whole thing was getting too much. Above us in the cupola, whirling and humming, was a famous, gorgeous and ludicrously overpopulated Correggio fresco, in which the Virgin Mary is assumed to a yellow heaven, rising from a multitude of pink faces and fat legs so dense and bizarre that the principal character is virtually obliterated, and the viewer starts to fight for breath in sympathy.

When Charles Dickens saw this fresco (or so my guidebook informed me), he was so excited by the thrash of unattributable lower limbs around its edge he wrote that "no operative surgeon in his wildest delirium" could possibly have imagined it (but then Dickens was always a bit kink about legs). No such fancy assailed the members of our little Prix Italia group 150 years later. We just wanted to get the story straight and it wasn't easy at this distance. Personally (I admit it), I was playing "Spot the Virgin" as though my sanity depended on it.

"I can't see the Virgin, I can't see the Virgin," I panicked.

"There she is," said a helpful compatriot (pointing generally in the direction of the roof).

"But where?"

"There, in the blue, with her arms out."

"Where?"

"There. Look. In a direct line with the bloke falling out of the sky. She's being assumed into heaven. She's rising up."

"Oh yes." (Sigh of relief.) "So she's going to be all right then?"

"That's the idea."

"And what's the point of all the other guys? And the sheep?"

"I don't know. Perhaps it's an allegory on Gore Vidal's dictum, 'It is not enough to succeed, others must fail'."

A week of watching international television in the darkened rooms of a dilapidated palazzo was evidently beginning to take toll. The poor, weary brain, whirling and humming with hours of fiction, documentary and music and arts programmes, was signalling. I think, that it required a result. Would somebody please spot the virgin soon? After each session,

non-jury-members would tip the winks to one another about the entries shown in different rooms, but notable programmes were slow to rise up from the throng (although strangely you could always spot the sheep). "What did you see just now?" "Oh, a witness Austrian detective story, about a policeman played as a jaunty black beret. How about your?" "A French film about Anton Webern." "Oh dear. Any good?" "All right. It had the benefit of being 26 minutes long instead of 87." "It deserves a prize, then." "Indeed."

Second-guessing was what the competition seemed to be about. Obviously broadcasting organisations submit programmes they think will win a prize — which is not necessarily the same thing as their best or most representative work. This second-guessing may account for the strange weighting of the entries in all categories towards misery and relentlessly blighted lives, summed up best by a very serious Finnish documentary about a Russophobe Lithuanian who had hidden in a cellar for 27 years under a pile of potatoes. Twenty-seven years under those potatoes, mused the interviewer. "Are you bitter towards Stalin or communism... or God?"

Meanwhile another sort of second-guessing operated within the Prix Italia observers, who turned up in quite modest numbers for *Benedikas: Refugee in His Own Cellar* but formed impressive audiences for every British entry — jamming the viewing rooms and gratefully laughing like drains at the jokes. On Saturday afternoon, LWT's *South Bank Show* on *Sgt Pepper* delighted everybody so well that afterwards all the observers (not the jury, of course) spilled out into the sunshine, had a drink, and headed off for the hotels, sparing no thought for the luckless sod (Austria) whose programme had been scheduled next.

In the Prix Italia viewing rooms laughs were rare and precious — like, er, Parma ham usually is. Meanwhile Parma ham had become so commonplace that some of us actually began waving it away ("Prosciutto? Ha ha. No thanks"), and secretly wondered whether our diet was an experiment in aversion therapy.

I mention the *Sgt Pepper* programme because I imagine you would like to know the fate of the British entries. Well, in the music and arts section, the BBC's witty *Dostoevsky's Travels* (Paul Pawlikowski's *Bookmark*) was safely passed over for the prize on the grounds that it had been entered in the wrong section. It was a moot point, actually. The jury decided that the film was well made — and "ambiguous", whatever that means — but that it had little connection with art. This pronouncement caused a minor rumpus when Pawlikowski (a student-like individual, dressed in Hamlet black) revealed himself in the back rows of the press conference and rather petulantly declared that since his film exposed just such a pompous attitude towards art, he was glad not to win. Whoops.



Assuming the position: what category would the Prix Italia consider appropriate for Correggio's high-body-count ceiling art?

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It was the sort of outburst that makes you stare at the carpet, but the problem is a real one. The Prix Italia, originating as a competition for radio only, fixed its categories as fiction, documentary and music; and is now faced in its television entries with the problem that the high-culture music programmes which still best fit the expanded "music and arts" category make the delegates snore so resonantly in the viewing rooms that the ancient frescoes crumble and split (despite the heavy daubs of grey Polyclay holding them together). "Who selects these entries?" enquired the exasperated chairman of the judges, having just pronounced the majority of the programmes "insultingly mediocre". "Is it the catering department? The fire brigades?"

In the fiction section we came nowhere, which was odd. The BBC's *Graze Arenz* and ITV's *Prime Suspect* were entered alongside Mike Leigh's *Life is Sweet* (Channel 4). Big guns all, but none received a mention. Since only half of *Prime Suspect* was shown (for reasons of length), I did briefly consider setting up a little booth in the pleasant courtyard of the palazzo, where for a

small fee I would disclose whether Helen Mirren ever tracked down Marlowe's car. But in the meantime, the jury awarded the Prix Italia to *The Controversy of Valladolid*, a French film reconstructing a 16th-century ecclesiastical debate on the issue of whether the American Indian had a human soul. And the Special Prize went to Finland's *A Journey Through Time*, a poetic film considered by some people more suitable for Music and Arts. Ho hum.

This category bugbear is obviously a huge problem. One of the jury members told me with relief that her next adjudication would be in a festival of "films about the sea", which would make life a lot easier. But I fear she shouldn't count on it. What about *esuary* films, I said mischievously. Wouldn't the BBC be disqualified for showing witty, tongue-in-cheek scenes of fresh water instead of salt? Watch out for the poignant documentary about a redundant Finnish ship-builder who spent 27 years under a pile of rivets. The seal! The seal! Don't give me that.

The great news was that the documentary section was much stronger all round (good stuff from America's PBS, France's Canal Plus, A2Z and La Sept, Slovenia's TVSLO and Japan's NHK), and BBC2's *Video Diaries* won the Prix Italia for War, Lives and Videotape — the film by Nick Danziger about children in Kabul. Hoorah. The Special Prize went to one of the more controversial programmes in the competition, Belgium's *Lovers on Trial*, which revealed in extraordinary close-up all the muddled details of a sordid murder trial (behind the scenes as well as in court). It was dynamite, actually — both in the choice of story and in the way it was told — and after it was over, we all felt rather shocked. Which is as much to say that it was a good few minutes before we gamely tackled our next plateful of good old Parma ham.

• First Tuesday

(ITV, Tuesday, 10.40pm)

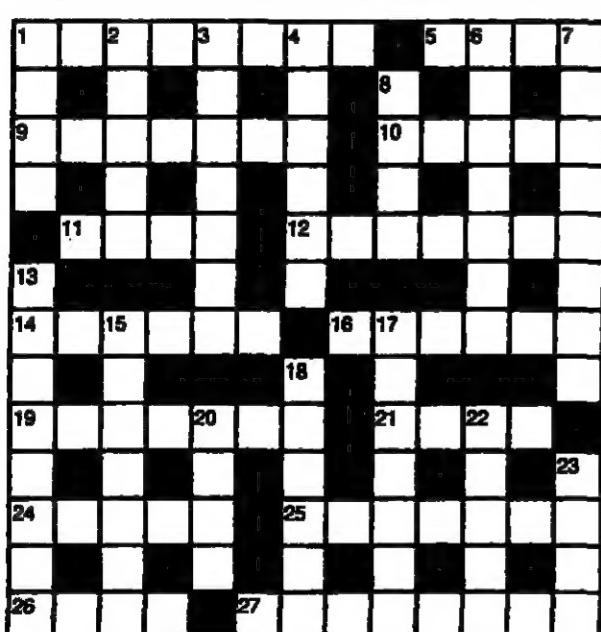
It was bound to happen one day. In the state of Texas, a person contemplating suicide can dial a Samaritans-style help-line, and find that it is the equivalent of an 0898 number. Thus for every minute of soul-searching, the desperate person shells out two dollars and feels consequently less inclined to remain alive. The time-honoured advice "Keep them talking" takes on a whole new sinister meaning in this context. I mean, presumably there are some callers who start out with a fifty-fifty chance of survival, yet talk for so long that they have no option but to kill themselves. And possibly they only called up in the first place because they wanted a pizza and mis-dialed. Anyway, *First Tuesday* investigates many such sensational explosive rackets in a film called *Hostage to Fortune* — the main revelation of which is that there are psychiatric hospitals in America which drum up business by literally kidnapping sane people and tying them to beds (keeping them on their books until the health insurance money runs out). It sounds like something from a Marx Brothers movie — bald-headed men in white coats wielding giant butterfly nets — but it is evidently true. And *First Tuesday* sounds further alarming note by suggesting it could happen here.

• The Late Show: Later

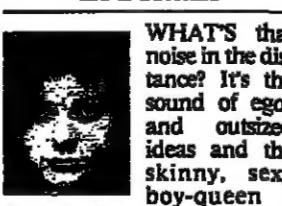
(Thursday, BBC2, 11.15pm)

Cracks form at last in the monolithic edifice of *The Late Show*. Perhaps aware that for many viewers the occasional live music element was invariably a cue for bed-time, *The Late Show* has put all the music on one night, Thursday, with Jools Holland presiding. Which means that we will all know where we are, and some of us can get an early night without fear of missing Salman Rushdie.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2909



Caitlin Moran discovers it's hard to be humble when you're the coolest Best Band in Britain



WHAT'S that noise in the distance? It's the sound of egos and outsize ideas and the skinny, sexy boy-queen Brett Anderson slapping himself with his microphone. Yay, it is Suede, cover-stars three times over before their first single: sussed and thinner than anyone has a right to be, and possibly the only reason for the British music industry to continue printing records right now. Major label bosses are on their knees, begging for four signatures in exchange for... half a million?... a million? Suede couldn't really say.

Over-glibly described as a cross between Bowie and The Smiths, with a bit of Hendrix thrown in and Anderson's Cockney Rebetique drawing croon over the top, Suede has been besieged by hysterical press attention over the past nine months. It was not always thus. A year ago, Anderson's flamboyant lead the band ESO to record their first demo, which wound its weary way around all the record company offices. "They'd all say, 'We really like it, but we don't think anyone else will,'" bassist Mat Osman recalls.

Their debut single, "The Drowners", was greeted with the *Melody Maker's* front-page proclamation that Suede was the "Best Band in Britain", and followed by the kind of write-ups normally reserved for dead Americans called Jimi or Elvis. Anderson's smile becomes wider. "And what was the last one?" Osman asks. "The Clash?"

Six months later, and the band is being wooed by every big label in Britain. Suede is making a very good effort at not being smug.

Anderson's phone rings. "They don't pass the test of being interesting enough," he says, smiling wickedly as the answering machine picks it up. Who would Anderson most like a call from? "Oh, no one really." Not even David

Stroking Suede's ego



Drowning in press attention: the arrogance of Suede is breathtaking, but perhaps justified

Bowie? "No, not now. Ten years ago, perhaps, when he was sitting in a dark room, writing brilliant music. But not now. It would be a dull call." Sometimes, the arrogance of Suede is breathtaking. But it's justified arrogance.

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house with an artist mother and a father who "did a bit of everything", Anderson just hung around, listened to his punk records and waited to grow up and move to London. London seemed to be where everything was happening. We see ourselves as a very London band."

"And what was the last one?" Osman asks. "The Clash?"

Anderson wanders off to make a cup of tea and an ashtray. Then he explains the driving force behind Suede's lyrics and songs. "All my stuff comes from my demon," he says, "who I get on very well at the moment. I can't see me hanging out with him in 20 years' time, though — we should break up amicably, and with dignity, and occasionally we'll get back into bed together, for old time's sake." Anderson sees his demon as a culminating thing, seeping through the generations and resolving itself in him.

"I'm of peasant lineage, really, and all my forebears were kind of rootless," he says. "I truly don't think I have a home at the moment." The lack of a base or background seems to unsettle him slightly. Perhaps this is why he sees Suede as something more than just a pop band, why he's eager to claim London as their own, why all their sell-out shows have an almost feverish air of expectation, and a kind of bleak, black humour that music seems to have been without for years.

When I tell Anderson that they co-songwriter Bernard Butler is the coolest guitarist I've seen on stage, he says, "Yeah, he's been practising in front of the mirror for years." The prospect of Suede frequenting the Top 20 is a happy one.

When I ask Osman why Suede exists, he shrugs and says, "We just wanna write classic songs."

When I ask Anderson, there's a pause. "I am averaging my lineage," he says, finally. *Melody Maker* had a big meeting before deciding to go ahead with the "Best New Band in Britain" cover story. They needn't have bothered with the "New".

GUILTY SECRETS: Jenny Eclair

"I have a tendency towards morbidity and guilty watch documentaries about ill children. I can myself that they are an in-depth look at the NHS or whatever, but really it's voyeurism. I sometimes watch *The Late Show*, and I enjoy *The Bill*. All those rather hard common types — great stuff."



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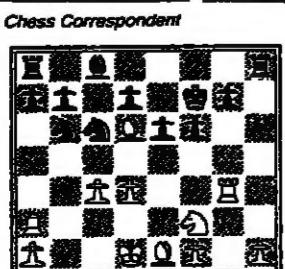
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WINNING MOVE
By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Hodgson — Gluckman, Lloyds Bank 1992. Although Black is undeveloped, his position appears solid enough. Nevertheless, White's next forced a decisive material gain. What was it?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a Batsford chess book. The answer and the winners will be printed in *The Times* on the following Saturday.

Solution to last Saturday's



competition: 1 Kc4. (threatening 2 Nxb5 mate, and after 2 Bc5 Nxc5, mate with 3 Rxg3+ and 4 Ra1 is unavoidable). The winners are: D. Goodwin, Bishop Auckland; S. Seymour, London; E. Rosenfeld, London.

Jenny Eclair